Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 163 | WEDNESDAY JULY 11, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Visit us online @ www. saipan tribune.com

OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Should the optional services being provided to Medicaid beneficiaries be eliminated?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

NATION

GOP bet Mitt Romney bests President Obama's donations with the help of rich few.

➤ PAGE 14

CAMPUS

Tibetan monks and nuns are working to tie their ancient culture to the modern world.

➤ PAGE 18

LIFE & STYLE

Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes reach a settlement in their divorce.

➤ PAGE 19

Pass Social Security bill ASAP—Fitial

»House pre-files bill; Senate says it will not conflict with amendments to Fund EO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A day before leaving for a two-week trip to the U.S. mainland, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial urged the Legislature on Monday to immediately pass his administration-drafted bill indicating the CNMI's desire to transfer active government employees to the U.S. Social Security program even as lawmakers are still debating on the governor's executive order placing the NMI Retirement Fund under a state of emergency.

The governor said the bill's passage will effectively transfer members of the Fund's defined benefit and defined contribution plans to the U.S. Social Security program.

Fitial's plan is to implement the Social Security program effective Oct. 1, 2012.

"Therefore, your expeditious action on this matter is greatly appreciated," Fitial told lawmakers.

The governor also said other pieces of legislation will be

See PASS on Page 4

Finance pays PHI Pharmacy $353K

- Medicaid services still suspended at PHI, MMC
- Saipan Health Clinic resumes services

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government made a partial payment to PHI Pharmacy to reduce its unpaid reimbursement to the company, according to Finance Secretary Larissa Larson yesterday.

A check for $353,287.40 was issued to the islands' biggest pharmaceutical provider last week, according to Larson, who also promised to update the government's obligations to other medical providers.

"The Department of Finance issued a check in the amount $353,287.40 on Monday, July 2nd. The check was picked up on July 3rd," Larson told *Saipan Tribune*.

She added: "We continue to look for alternative sources of funds to cover the remaining balance due to the pharmacies [and other private providers] and hope to resolve this matter soon."

PHI Pharmacy suspended its services to Medicaid patients on July 1 due to the government's mounting arrears since last fiscal year, estimated at more than $1 million.

Medicaid program officials earlier disclosed to *Saipan Tri-*

See FINANCE on Page 4

Alleged 'excesses' in private providers' Medicaid bills

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson told senators on Monday that the administration has discovered "excesses" in the Medicaid billing of private providers in the CNMI, prompting the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to dig deeper into this and other Medicaid issues that have recently

See ALLEGED on Page 4

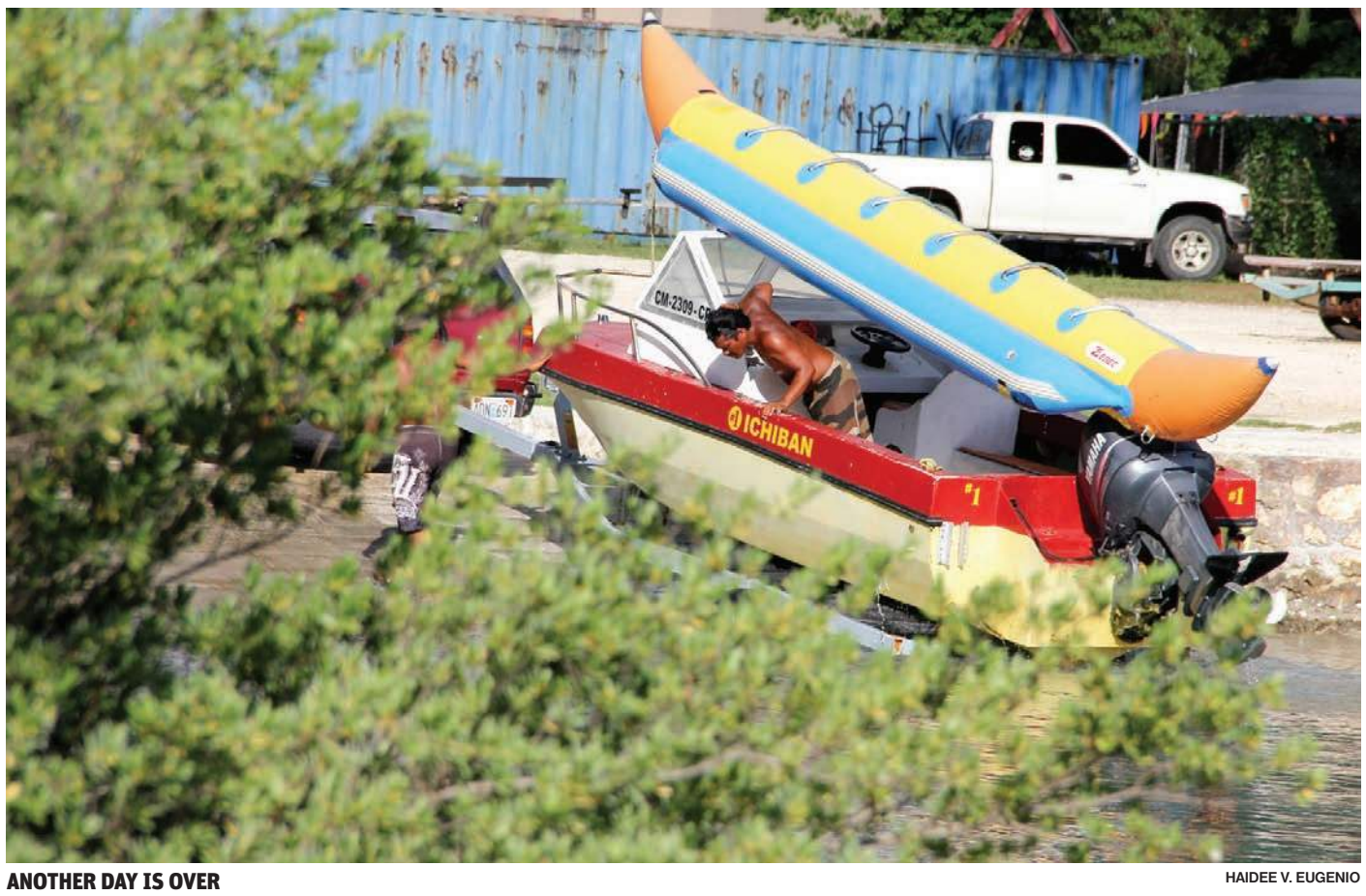
Malware deadline passes, very few knocked offline

By BARBARA ORTUTAY and LOLITA C. BALDOR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—If you're reading this online, you're fine. The day that was supposed to see thousands of people knocked off the Internet has arrived, but only a few people were affected.

Thousands of Internet users across the U.S. and beyond waited too long or simply didn't believe warnings that they would lose access to the Internet just after midnight because of malware that took over computers around the world more than a year ago.

See MALWARE on Page 4



ANOTHER DAY IS OVER HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Crewmembers of Ichiban Marine Sports haul a banana boat onto a pickup truck after another day of work that includes providing banana boat rides to tourists in the Saipan lagoon. Tourist arrivals grew by 42 percent in April or from 30,691 last year to 21,629 this year, bringing the year-to-date increase to 12 percent, the Marianas Visitors Authority said.

Miah off the hook; trial of Mirano continues. PAGE 2
CNMI awarded $1.079M veterans transportation grant. PAGE 6

Local

Miah now off the hook; trial of Mirano continues

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie-delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mohammad Jahangir Miah is now off the hook in the case that charged him with conspiracy to forge stale CNMI tax refund checks and cash them in grocery stores.

This developed after U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday granted court-appointed counsel Colin Thompson's motion for a judgment of acquittal.

The trial of Miah's co-defendant, Earl Eric Mirano, will, however, continue after Manglona denied defense attorney Vicente Salas' motion for judgment of acquittal.

Manglona determined that there is insufficient evidence for any rational jury to convict Miah since that the U.S. government presented no evidence that corroborates Miah's statements.

Manglona said the only evidence presented against Miah is the audio and videotapes, but that his statements in the tapes have not been corroborated with any other evidence at trial.

The judge said she made it clear since the beginning of the trial that Mirano's incriminating statements are not to be applied to Miah.

Manglona noted that FBI special agent Haejun Park even admitted that even with the audio and videotapes he still needs to conduct further investigation to corroborate Miah's statements in the tapes.

"Miah is dismissed in this case," Manglona said.

Thompson and Salas moved for a judgment of acquittal after assistant U.S. attorney Stephen Leon Guerrero called special agent Park and played footages of audio and video surveillance that showed alleged transactions between Miah and Mirano.

Thompson told the media yesterday that the defense team and Miah are very happy with the acquittal.

"Everybody in our team worked very hard—attorney Janet King, private detective Chris Guerrero, and translator Rabby Syed," Thompson said.

Thompson said the only evidence presented against Miah was some video and audiotapes.

"Regardless of whatever was said on that tape, the statements made by Mr. Miah on that tape lacked any collaboration," the lawyer pointed out.

Thompson said the U.S. Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit have both ruled in situations like Miah's case that there has to have corroborating evidence—some independent evidence that the crime was committed.

"And that something that which supports the reliability of Mr. Miah's statements outside of his statements. There was no any corroboration," the lawyer added.

The FBI installed the audio and video surveillance devices on Mirano after Mirano allegedly voluntarily came forward to report that he had been cashing fraudulent CNMI tax refund checks in grocery stores at Miah's direction.

The indictment charged Miah and Mirano with conspiracy to commit bank fraud and bank fraud. The trial began on July 2.

Miah awaits sentencing after being convicted in a driver's license scam at DPS.

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES
Take part in our summer youth empowerment programs!
DYS-SUMMER YOUTH EMPOWERMENT CAMP
DYS invites children ages 6 to 13 years of age to a two-week summer program for sports & arts and crafts camp designed to keep our youth active, improve their athletic skills, learn the value of sportsmanship, and encourage them to live healthy and active lifestyles. The camp also focuses on promoting healthy relationships and team building skills, as well as learning traditional arts & crafts making.
SUMMER YOUTH EMPOWERMENT CAMP
Chacha Jr. High School, Kagman
SPORTS CAMP
JULY 09 to July 13, 2012
ARTS & CRAFTS
July 16 to 20, 2012
Oleai Sports Complex, San Jose
SPORTS CAMP: July 30 to August 03, 2012
ARTS & CRAFTS: August 06 to 10, 2012
AHEC
LET'S MOVE CNMI
EAT RIGHT, MOVE MORE AND BE TOBACCO FREE
Qualified youth will have their $5.00 fee waived
Funding made possible through the Early Childhood Comprehensive System (ECCS)
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL: 664-2550/1 [SAIPAN] • 532-9393 [ROTA] • 433-2950 [TINIAN]

Fitial's revised FY '13 budget gives more to mayors' offices

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) may pre-file today the fiscal year 2013 budget bill after making further reviews and discussions yesterday on the governor's revised $114-million budget that Basa said gave increases of $50,000 to over $500,000 to mayors' offices.

He said the governor gave Tinian an additional $50,000, while Rota was given over half a million. Saipan got some $100,000 more.

"There are other figures we are again reviewing to see where the $12 million in additional anticipated revenues will go. We have to iron out some things first before we could pre-file the budget bill. Our job is to reflect the additional $12 million in the budget bill," Basa said.

At the same time, Basa expressed optimism over the administration's discussion of possible restoration of 72 work hours biweekly for the rest of fiscal year 2013, up from the current 64 hours every two weeks. That's still less than the normal 80 work hours.

Acting press secretary Teresa Kim said there's not been any decision made by the administration about any change in the biweekly work hours of those covered by austerity Fridays.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said he has yet to fully review the governor's revised 2013 budget but it would be interesting to find out the purposes for such increases.

Manglona hopes the governor will not pursue his plan to set up a new office for a governor's special representative to Rota, and funding for such office may have been included in the budget of the governor's office instead of including it in the Rota mayor's office budget. He said this might explain the big difference between the increased budget for Rota and Tinian mayors' offices.

"We will not allow such a plan to have another political hire by the governor. There should not be any room in this budget for a political hire. Increases in budget should go to medical care and public safety," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz and Tinian Legislative Delegation chair and Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) separately said yesterday they are not aware of the purpose of such increases in the mayor's office budget as they have yet to review the budget packet.

Under the concurrent resolution that both the House and Senate adopted within days of each other, the total identified budgetary resources for 2013 is $133.641 million. Of this amount, $114.320 million is available for appropriation.

DPL files $1.4M claim on bankrupt firm

The Department of Public Lands is claiming $1.4 million in royalty and quarry permit from Camacho Equipment Co. Inc., a local company that filed for bankruptcy in November 2011.

DPL, through assistant attorney general Charles E. Brasington, filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Monday a motion to amend its proof of claim to change its status from unsecured to secured creditor.

Secured creditors are those having a secured interest in the property and can use that property as collateral in case of default.

Brasington said that DPL's previous filing as an "unsecured creditor" was an inadvertent error.

He cited a temporary quarry permit dated May 22, 2007, that states that if Camacho Equipment Co. "files for relief under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code… any rent due and payable…shall constitute a valid first lien upon any of [Camacho's] buildings, improvements, machinery and equipment on the premises…"

Camacho Equipment Co. has filed for relief under Chapter 7 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

The government lawyer said the company owes DPL $1,428,679.21.

Under a Chapter 7 petition, most assets of the debtors are liquidated as quickly as possible to pay off his or her debts over a period of three to five years.

Timothy H. Bellas, counsel for Camacho Equipment Co., listed over 20 creditors that the company owes a total of $366,325.85. He said the company's assets total only $103,638.33, and consist of personal property. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Rotarians to donate $1K for Manta Band's London trip

» After a few more donations, group's shortfall at $35K

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Saipan Rotary Club voted yesterday to extend financial assistance to the Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band for their upcoming trip to the London Olympics this month.

At the suggestion of Rotarian Kim Forrester, club members made a unanimous vote to donate $1,000 to the band for their scheduled journey to the Olympic Games.

The Manta Ray Band was among a few handpicked high school bands across the nation invited to perform at the Summer Olympics.

The young talents have also been invited to perform at Westminster Abbey, Queen Elizabeth's Conference Center, and a torch ceremony in Central London. A 30-minute bonus show is also scheduled at the Olympic Park.

During yesterday's meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan, Forrester noted the hard work shown by the Manta Ray Band in trying to come up with the funds for their London trip. Forrester said the group deserves the Rotarians' support and described their upcoming performance as a "great thing" for the CNMI.

Manta Ray Band musical director Will DeWitt was thrilled upon hearing the good news. He revealed that the Saipan Rotary Club has been an ardent supporter of the band since it was first created and once donated brand new musical instruments some seven years ago.

According to DeWitt, the band members are scheduled to fly to London in early morning of July 23.

To date, the group is still short of $35,000 for its $250,000 budget for the two-week trip, DeWitt said.

This after they received some donations and fundraising proceeds since last week of about $5,000 including the latest $1,000 pledge from the Rotary.

DeWitt said the group's deadline for final payment is July 15 and the band is appealing to those who may have been waiting "on the sidelines" to help them seal the deal.

Last Sunday, band members held a carwash fundraiser at McDonald's Middle Road. The group has scheduled a rummage sale at Mount Carmel School on July 15, from 7am to 4pm. A bowling tournament and radio telethon are also in the works before their trip this month.

If any individual or business would like to add their name to the band's list of supporters, contact DeWitt at 989-6987 or willdewitt69@gmail.com. Educational tax credit donations, DeWitt said, remain a popular and convenient tool for many to give generously during difficult economic times.

NEXT TOP CHEF SPONSOR CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delta Air Lines co-sponsors Saipan's Next Top Chef competition. From left, Christopher A. Concepcion, Delta Air Lines; Vicky Benavente and Shelli Neal, Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation volunteers, and Esther Sound, Delta Air Lines. Saipan's Next Top Chef fundraiser event will be held at PIC on Saturday, July 28, 2012, from 2pm to 4pm. There will be a raffle draw plus entertainment by the Mime group from Life in the Son Church and Ataktak dance group. Contact the following organizers for ticket sales: Vicky Benavente vickybenavente@gmail.com , 237-5103; Shelli Neal shellineal@gmail.com, 287-2368; or Rose Smith roseevm@yahoo.com, 483-0162.

POON'S RESTAURANT
Chinese and Indonesian Food
Serving Saipan since 1983
Special Occasion Promo
(Wedding, Birthday, Christening, Graduation etc.)
$7.99 per person
Try our All Day Specials
for only $4.50
with Rice, Soup and Iced Tea or Hot Tea
(Take-out order available)
Monday - Sunday
Lunch: 10:30am-2:00pm • Dinner: 5:30pm-10:00pm
Catering Now Available
Call 234-6907/989-1428

YTT GOLD Jewelry 元通金行
SPECIAL SALE
20%-50% OFF
Selected Items Only
We have
14k, 18k, 24k
• Gemstones
• Pearl
• Jade
• Necklace/Pendant
• Bracelets
• Earrings
• Bangles
• Wedding Bands
WEDDING RING SET PROMO
European & Japanese Design
(Over 300 kinds of style/selection)
We buy gold and we do pawn service.
YTT Gold holds Diamond & Diamond Grading Certificate
Friendly and trained staff
Good reputation • Since 1989
Tel. No.: 233-2368
Business Hours
10:00am - 8:00pm • Sunday Closed
GARAPAN, BEACH ROAD
HARD ROCK CAFE
DFS GALERIA
CAR PARK
STAR SANDS PLAZA
D'ELEGANCE CAFE
CAR PARK
GOLD
Located behind Duty Free and Star Sands Plaza

Coca-Cola
Join us at our Third and Final Redemption Event:
Friday, July 13, 2012
4pm to 6pm at Joeten Shopping Center Susupe
SPIN IT to WIN IT!
ENJOY TOGETHER
XBOX KINECT™
BLACKBERRY
MOVIE PACKAGES
DRINK IN THE AHHH
TURN UP THE AHHH
WATER PARK & BRUNCH CERTIFICATES
JOETEN SHOPPING CERTIFICATES
PRIZES
Xbox Kinect
Joeten Shopping Certificates
Blackberry
Water Park & Brunch Certificates
Brunch Certificates
Gas Certificates
Movie Packages
Keep Collecting "Coca-Cola" Labels.
Peel and collect "Coca-Cola" bottled product labels. Collect 10 labels and redeem for an instant prize. Gather 25 labels for a chance to spin for a prize on the wheel.
For complete promo details, visit www.kospn.com
Promo ends July 13, 2012. Prizes not exactly as shown.
"Coca-Cola," "Diet Coke," "Coca-Cola Zero," "Sprite," "Fanta," and the Dynamic Ribbon Device are registered trademarks of The Coca-Cola Company.
"Nestea" is a registered trademark of Société des Produits Nestlé S.A. (Switzerland) used under license by Beverage Partners Worldwide S.A.

Judge orders OAG to disclose identity of 'cooperating source'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos has ordered the Office of the Attorney General to disclose the name and criminal history of a "cooperating source" that police used in the operation against a suspected dealer of crystal methamphetamine or "ice."

Inos ruled, however, that the OAG is not obliged to disclose the identity and criminal record of a second "cooperating source" who had limited participation in the case.

Inos made the determination after defendant Edward Mendiola asked for the disclosure of confidential informants.

Police arrested Mendiola last April on charges of illegal possession and trafficking of a controlled substance.

Police detective Steven A. Castro stated in his report that, on Nov. 8, 2011, two "cooperating sources" told Department of Public Safety detectives that Mendiola sells "ice" in Fina Sisu village.

The two "cooperating sources" informed the detectives that they managed to buy $100 worth of "ice" from Mendiola on Nov. 2, 2011.

Castro said the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force and DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau did a sting operation against Mendiola on Nov. 9, 2011.

Using one "cooperating source," they were able to purchase $100 worth of "ice" from Mendiola at his residence in Fina Sisu, Castro said.

Mendiola, through assistant public defender Matthew H. Meyer, moved for the disclosure of the names and contact information of the two "cooperating sources" and for evidence of the two's participation as government informants.

Assistant attorney general James B. McAllister, as counsel for the government, opposed the motion.

In his order, Inos noted that "cooperating source 1" was highly involved in the criminal activity as he was the one who informed detectives that he had previously purchased "ice" from Mendiola, contacted the defendant to purchase more of the drug, and proceeded to buy the drug under police supervision.

"Given his high level of involvement, this witness' name and contact information should be disclosed," Inos said.

Inos said he also finds that the first "cooperating source's criminal history should be disclosed to Mendiola, as the CNMI Supreme Court has previously determined that information hearing on the credibility of a significant witness is Brady material.

Information that "bears on the credibility of a significant witness in the case" is considered to be Brady material.

As for "cooperating source 2," Inos said there is no evidence of his or her participation in relation to Mendiola after the initial report of having purchased "ice" from him.

Inos said that Mendiola can only speculate why "cooperating source 2" might reported him to the police.

"Disclosure of a cooperating source is not required where his involvement in a case is limited to establishing probable cause," Inos said, citing a previous court ruling.

The judge also ordered the disclosure of agreements between Mendiola and the government.

PASS

From Page 1

forthcoming for the Legislature's action to "reform" the retirement fund plan "to protect the benefits of our retirees and to effectively transfer our active employees to the Social Security program."

"We are also waiting for the final draft of what the administration said was the enhanced version of House Bill 17-226," said Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) yesterday.

While the process to transfer active government employees to Social Security requires many administrative steps, Fitial said that one necessary step "is for the CNMI to pass legislation expressing its intent to be included in the U.S. Social Security program followed by a certification by the governor to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States of America that this legislation was adopted."

Acting House speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) pre-filed the administration bill late yesterday afternoon, a day after Fitial sent his final draft to the Legislature for action.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said a session may be held as early as Thursday morning for the formal introduction of House Bill 17-312.

HB 17-312's title reads, "To express the desire of the [CNMI] to have the insurance system commonly known as 'Social Security' extended to the officers and employees of the Commonwealth government and its political subdivisions and instrumentalities."

Fitial said the legislation is simple and straightforward, "yet needed to move forward with implementing the U.S. Social Security program for our government employees."

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), in a separate interview yesterday, said the Senate supports transitioning active members to the U.S. Social Security program and this, he said, does not conflict with Senate amendments to the governor's emergency declaration for the Fund.

Manglona said the Senate is mainly opposed to the abolition of the Retirement Fund board and its transfer to the Department of Finance, adding that doing so is like allowing the fox to guard a henhouse since the central government itself owes the pension agency over $320 million in unpaid employer contributions plus interest.

The House has since sat on the Senate resolution.

Fitial reiterated that the current program "is not sustainable" for all members.

The governor said the administration will maintain the current retirement plan for retirees, but will move all other members of the Fund's defined benefit and defined contribution plans to the U.S. Social Security program.

U.S. P.L. 86-778 excluded the officers and employees of the government of Guam from participation in Social Security. This exclusion was extended to the CNMI government, HB 17-312 says in its findings. But it said private sector employees were not excluded.

The bill also says it is now beneficial for the welfare of CNMI residents that the government participates in Social Security.

"The government's participation will reduce operating expenses of the government and help ensure a stable retirement for the people of the Commonwealth," it adds.

Two weeks ago, the administration provided two draft pieces of legislation to the House leadership. One became HB 17-312, while the other one has yet to be finalized by the administration.

That second bill is referred to as the "CNMI Pension Recovery and Survival Act of 2012," amending the Commonwealth Code pertaining to the defined contribution and defined benefit plans of the CNMI's retirement system to allow for the transition to participation in the federal Social Security system.

Fitial placed the Fund under a state of emergency after a federal judge dismissed the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition. The administration wants the Fund to be placed under the Department of Finance mostly to disburse retirees' pension, while active members are transitioned to the U.S. Social Security retirement system.

FINANCE

From Page 1

bune that it owes private medical providers, both off- and on-island, about $15 million.

A PHI Pharmacy staff disclosed yesterday that services for Medicaid patients are still suspended until further notice. However, the staffer emphasized that Medicaid patients can continue to avail of the pharmacy's products and services as long they pay for these out of pocket.

Marianas Medical Center manager Joy Sanchez confirmed yesterday that services to Medicaid patients also remain suspended at this time

She pointed out that Medicaid patients can still avail of their services through self-pay.

MMC also suspended services to Medicaid patients starting July 2. It was earlier learned that MMC has not been reimbursed for the last 11 months. It has yet to receive any payment from the government as of yesterday.

Sanchez declined to state how much the government owes their company but said it is a "significant amount." Had they received it in a timely manner, the money would have helped the company's operation, she added.

MMC shut down its outlet in San Antonio last June 1 and consolidated its operation with the company's clinic on Beach Road.

Meantime, Saipan Health Clinic—which also stopped services to Medicaid patients on July 2—has decided to resume services two days after.

SHC billing supervisor Rita Santos said yesterday that the decision was made by Dr. Vicente Aldan, the clinic's owner, in consideration of the situation of many Medicaid patients.

She disclosed that they have not been paid for their reimbursement since fiscal year 2011, estimated at about $200,000. She confirmed yesterday that nothing has been paid to date.

The Medicaid program is designed for low-income individuals and families and receives funding from both federal and local governments through a 45-55 percent matching ratio. The lack of local monies to match the federal share has been hampering the program's ability to reimburse vendors.

ALLEGED

From Page 1

made the news such as nonpayment to providers, proposed benefit cuts and local-federal funding requirements.

Committee chair Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said yesterday it was the first time that the Senate was officially informed by the administration of "overbillings" by some private providers at a time when patients are now being asked to pay for their medications after some private clinics and pharmacies stopped honoring Medicaid insurance.

Torres asked CNMI Medicaid Office administrator Helen Sablan yesterday to attend a Thursday meeting with the Senate committee along with Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson at 2pm.

The committee also asked Sablan to provide documents showing the breakdown of the government's unpaid Medicaid obligations to "all" private clinics and pharmacies.

Torres' committee also wants information on how medications are being released to Medicaid patients from PHI, Brabu Pharmacy, and/or any other pharmacies.

"Although not listed in the letter, there are other issues related to Medicaid that we will discuss with both Medicaid and the Finance secretary," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) and other senators took turns asking Larson and the governor's special adviser for management and budget Vicky Villagomez on Medicaid funding during Monday afternoon's session.

MALWARE

From Page 1

At 12:01 a.m. (0401 GMT) on Monday, the FBI turned off Internet servers that were functioning as a temporary safety net to keep infected computers online for the past eight months. A court order the agency had gotten to keep the servers running expired, and was not renewed.

FBI officials have been tracking the number of computers they believe still may be infected by the malware. As of Sunday night, there were about 41,800 in the U.S., down from 45,600 on July 4. Worldwide, the total is roughly 211,000 infected. An estimated 2.3 billion people around the world use the Internet, according to Internet World Stats.

Considering that there are millions of Internet users across the country, several thousand losing access isn't a big deal—unless you are one of them.

As the deadline approached, Internet service providers such as AT&T Inc. and Time Warner Cable Inc. set up their own safety nets to allow the affected computers to continue to access the Internet.

AT&T said only a "small percentage" of its customers were affected by the virus. To make sure they can continue to access the Internet, the company will maintain legitimate Internet servers for them through the end of the year.

This, said spokesman Mark Siegel, gives people "adequate time" to remove the virus from their computers and avoid service interruption.

Time Warner Cable would not say how many of its customers were affected by the virus, but spokesman Justin Venech said the company also set up its own servers to ensure they can get online. Time Warner has no specific deadline, but the company will notify people who are affected so they can fix their computers.

Verizon Communications Inc. said it will "continue to provide extended support to our customers during the month of July—while continuing to instruct them on the necessary actions they must take to resolve the issue on their computers." The company added that it has notified affected customers "using a variety of methods, including email, phone calls, and postal mail correspondence."

In South Korea, there were no reports from affected computers Monday. As many as 80 computers there are believed to be infected with the malware that may cause problems in Web surfing, down from 1,798 computers in February, according to the government.

"The impact will be limited," said Lee Sang-hun, head of network security at the Korea Communications Commission, a government body. The government and private broadband providers opened helplines and issued warnings. They also asked users to check if their computers were infected and to download antivirus software. South Korea is one of the most wired countries in the world, with more than 90 percent of households connected to broadband Internet.

The problem began when international hackers ran an online advertising scam to take control of more than 570,000 infected computers around the world. When the FBI went in to take down the hackers late last year, agents realized that if they turned off the malicious servers being used to control the computers, all the victims would lose their Internet service.

In a highly unusual move, the FBI set up the safety net. They brought in a private company to install two clean Internet servers to take over for the malicious servers so that people would not suddenly lose their Internet.

And they arranged for a private company to run a website, http://www.dcwg.org, to help computer users determine whether their computer was infected and find links to other computer security business sites where they could find fixes for the problem.

From the onset, most victims didn't even know their computers had been infected, although the malicious software probably slowed their web surfing and disabled their antivirus software, making their machines more vulnerable to other problems.

CNMI seeks $2.4M free meal grant for summer

»PSS, DCCA designated lead agencies in securing USDA grant

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Students and out-of-school youths may be able to access free or discounted school meals starting next summer if the CNMI succeeds in securing a new federal grant amounting to $2.45 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Summer Food Service Program for Children is authorized by Section 13 of the National School Lunch Act of 1946. It was authorized on Dec. 31, 2010, under the Healthy, Hungry-free Kids Act and funds are available to initiate, maintain, and expand a nonprofit food service program for children during summer.

It is projected to allow 50 percent or more of school children to receive free or a reduced-price school meals.

Last July 3, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial thanked USDA regional director Allen Ng for giving the Commonwealth an opportunity to explore the grant and named Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao as the authorized persons to apply for and implement the grant under the Summer Food Service Program within the CNMI Nutrition Assistance Grant.

Fitial believes that the joint PSS-DCCA effort will make the program more efficient in reaching out to the CNMI's children.

Faisao told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that there are an estimated 15,247 children who may benefit from the program in the summer of 2013—from June to August—once the federal grant is secured.

Faisao also wrote Sablan on July 5 reiterating DCCA's commitment to this endeavor.

The Public School System's Food and Nutrition Services program operates under a nutrition assistance grant from USDA. Included in the FNS program is the Child Nutrition Program, which serves over 15,000 meals each day to almost 11,000 public school and private school students.

Seven catering companies are contracted to provide meals to students on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian and the menus are formulated following USDA guidelines for nutritional content and were designed by the PSS nutritionist in collaboration with food vendors.

Based on the PSS facts and figures for school year 2011-2012, PSS has a total of 10,508 enrollees and 57 percent of them—5,971 students—are eligible for the free meals. The rest are subsidized; they buy the meal for a small sum.

The USDA Summer Food Service Program for Children, according to Faisao, was created to help fill the gap of food availability by ensuring that children in low-income areas continue to receive nutritious meals during the summer months.

He said a memorandum of understanding between PSS and DCCA has to be executed to begin the CNMI's application to the grant, the first for the Commonwealth. DCCA runs the Division of Youth Services, which serves 300 at-risk youths on Saipan, 60 on Tinian, and 80 on Rota.

"The joint designation authorizes our collaborative effort to include a state plan for summer food service program. …It is imperative to continue the availability of nutritious meal beyond the academic school year to maintain the healthy wellbeing of students and support proper developmental needs. This program prevents nutritional deficiencies that impact the ability to learn," added Faisao.

Judge OKs sale of Fund's San Vicente property

U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division designated judge Robert J. Faris has issued an order approving the sale of the NMI Retirement Fund's 886-square-meter property in San Vicente for $125,000.

In the order issued Monday, Faris said he has determined that the relief sought is in the best interests of the Fund, its estate, creditors, and all parties in interest.

The judge also noted that no objections were filed to the Fund's motion to seek the court's authority to approve the sale of the property.

Faris waived the 14-day stay period of his order and ordered that the Fund may proceed to close on the proposed transaction immediately upon entry of his order.

Jeremy B. Coffey, the Boston-based counsel for Fund, stated in the motion that selling the property is in the best interest of the estate and its creditors because the sale proceeds will increase the estate's cash assets to the benefit of all creditors and divest a non-core asset.

Coffey said that, on May 18, 2012, the Fund and James H. Arriola entered into a purchase and sale agreement. The Fund agreed to sell the property to Arriola for $125,000, the estimated fair market value of the property.

The Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors did not object to the Fund's request. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Fitial leaves for 2-week off-island trip

»National media reports US 'governors' bash mostly closed to public'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial left yesterday morning for at least a two-week trip to the U.S. mainland, among the highlights of which will be his participation in the four-day National Governors Association's annual summer meeting that national media described as "governors' bash that's mostly closed to the public."

Fitial

The NGA annual summer meeting from July 12 to 15 will be held in Williamsburg, Virginia.

"When America's governors convene near the nation's oldest Capitol in Williamsburg starting Thursday, they'll be treated to amusement parks, historical sites, championship golf courses, five-star dining, an al fresco concert and a rousing fireworks finale," according to AP.

The AP also said corporate sponsors or their states' respective taxpayers will foot the bill for nearly all of it, and much of it will be within view or earshot of the public or the press.

Fitial, who has been consistently attending NGA annual meetings, was accompanied by press secretary Angel Demapan.

Acting press secretary Teresa Kim, also the legal counsel for now acting governor Eloy S. Inos, confirmed yesterday that Fitial left yesterday morning for the United States and is expected to be back on July 23 or 24.

Kim said she has yet to get details of the governor's itinerary while he's in the U.S.

But last week, it was reported that Fitial will also be attending a symposium on climate change and its impacts on indigenous coastal cultures. The event, dubbed "First Stewards: Coastal Peoples Address Climate Change," is set for July 17 to 20 at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

Fitial, in previous interviews, said he will bring up at the NGA meeting his administration's plan to ask for at least a five-year extension of the federalization transition period.

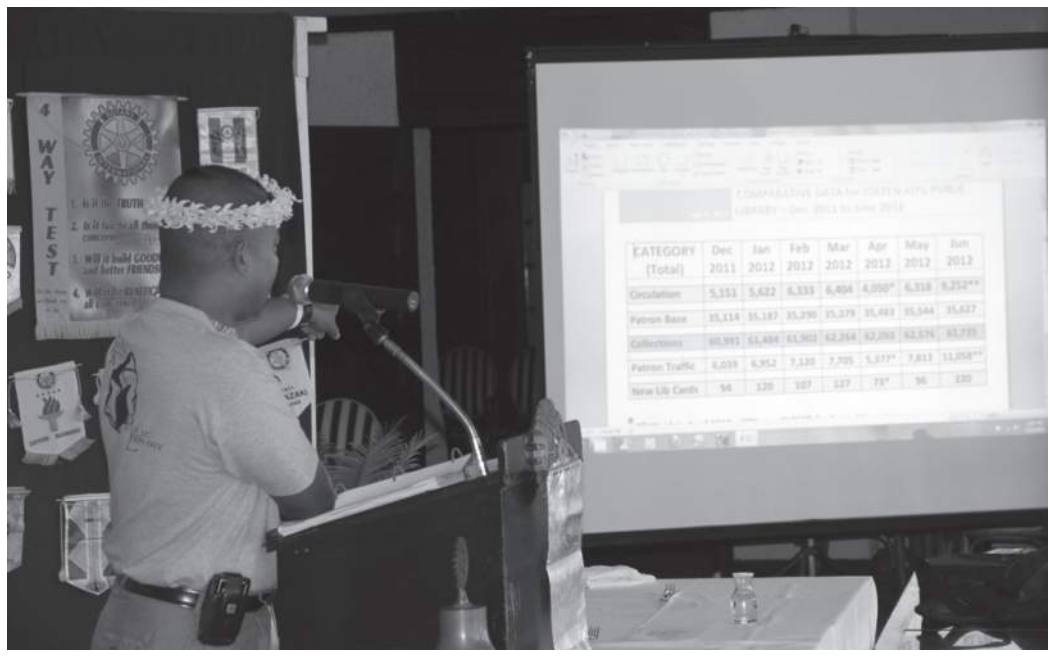
He said he will ask for all other governors' support to this request. The transition period will end on Dec. 31, 2014, even as over 7,600 or some 65 percent of foreign workers petitioned for a transitional Commonwealth-only work permit have yet to get their permits. ***(With reports from AP)***

IP&E
Fueling Excellence
Life in Motion
GO FOR THE GOLD
SIGN UP. GAS UP. AND WIN!
APPLE iPAD 3, MiFis & MORE!
Earn Points at Shell when you buy IT&E products with your Lucky 7 Gold Card!
IT&E
Life in Motion
SIGN UP. GAS UP. AND WIN:
1 Ton Shell V-Power® Gas
200,000 United MileagePlus® Award Miles
United Round Trip Tickets (U.S. or Asia)
iPad 3 or Mifis with service
$800 IT&E gift certificates
WAYS TO ENTER
W/ YOUR LUCKY 7 GOLD CARD:
Gas up or sign up for the NEW Lucky 7 Gold Card
Buy IT&E Products at Shell Stations
Buy Shell V-Power Premium Gas get 2 entries
No purchase necessary. Rules and conditions apply. See store for details.
MileagePlus. UNITED
Shell Licensee
Shell trademarks used under license by IP&E.

Saipan public library notes increasing visitor traffic

»JKPL prepares for 20th year celebration in December

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library executive director John O. Gonzales shows members of Saipan Rotary Club the upward trend in the volume of individuals who visit the library on a monthly basis. JKPL, which was established in 1992, will celebrate 20 years of service in December.

More and more community members are visiting the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library each day, according to executive director John O. Gonzales.

Citing statistics presented to members of the Saipan Rotary Club during its weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday, Gonzales said the public library posted almost a two-fold increase in its patron traffic in June alone, recording 11,058 visitors. This is a big jump from the May number of 7,813 individuals.

Patron traffic refers to the volume of people who come in to check in and check out library books and materials.

The upward trend in visitor traffic began in December last year with 6,039 patrons. January recorded 6,952 visitors; February had 7,120; March, 7,705; and April, 5,377.

Based on the library's database, library card members total 35,627.

Gonzales disclosed that they issued new library cards to new members: 94 in December; 120 in January; 107 in February; 127 in March; 73 in April; 96 in May; and 220 in June.

A similar increase was also noted in the volume of books and library materials that were checked out and borrowed by members, particularly in June when JKPL issued out 9,252 materials, compared to May with 6,318.

Gonzales disclosed the following monthly circulation: 5,151 in December; 5,622 in January; 6,333 in February; 6,404 in March; and 4,050 in April.

Gonzales credited the uptick to the commitment and collaboration of library partners and supporters who continue to promote reading literacy on island.

The library has a total collection of 62,735 books and other materials. This number, according to Gonzales, is expected to rise in the coming months in time for the consolidation of other library collections on Tinian and Rota. He estimated the total collection on three islands to reach 90,000.

The Tinian Public Library has about 15,000 materials while the newly opened Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Public Library in Rota has 3,000 to 4,000.

20-year anniversary

Gonzales announced yesterday that JKPL, which was established in 1992, will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in December. A three-day celebration is being prepared for Dec. 14 to 16 and a special committee has already been formed to prepare for this event.

He said that JKPL was able to increase its operational funding from $2,000 to $6,000 this fiscal year inclusive of the ongoing repairs of the library roof. From previous years' 12 full-time employees, the facility currently has seven employees.

Because the public library was built by and for the community, Gonzales encouraged the public to visit the library and take pride in it. He enumerated the various programs and activities they offer—all aimed to promote reading and literacy.

Among these programs are the Read Aloud, Story Hours, Mother/Father Read, Movie Night, and other cultural activities. He also cited the success of the Children of Our Homeland Cultural Center, the Information Technology Center, and the JKPL Bookmobile that have served thousands of children across the islands.

Gonzales said he continues to make the library not only a repository facility but a sanctuary and refuge to the community.

"Whatever cost of the libraries, they are cheap and they're nothing compared to the cost of an ignorant nation. In these challenging times, our library becomes more relevant, more now than ever. Please come and visit because JKPL is also a refuge and a sanctuary," he added.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 21st birthday to Kimberly Marie Manibusan Lizama! We hope you enjoy your special day and God bless. May you have many more birthdays to come. We love you! Greetings come from EMC Calvo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI awarded $1.079M veterans transportation grant

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority's application for a $1.079 million competitive grant to help improve transportation access for veterans and their families was approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Authority, according to Thomas J. Camacho, special assistant for Public Transportation.

The Veterans Transportation & Community Living II grant application was submitted in April to help improve access to local transportation for veterans, their families, including military personnel and their dependents, by helping them find affordable rides to work, school, shopping, medical care, and other destinations in the CNMI.

Camacho

According to the grant application goal, the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority will build and equip a One-Call/One-Click resource and information center to coordinate current and future public transportation services for thousands of veterans and military personnel living in the CNMI.

"We applied for $1,079,600, of which $1,029,600 [will be used] to establish and implement a One-Call/One-Click Center and $50,000 for marketing, outreach, coordinated planning, and evaluation of the system," said Camacho, who is also chairman of the Commonwealth Public Transportation advisory board. "Fortunately, because we qualify for federal matching waiver under this discretionary grant and pending approval, we've requested a waiver of the federal matching requirements for U.S. insular areas."

"This is certainly welcome news considering the over 80 grant applications that were received, of which only 64 applications approved. We were the only U.S. territory and 33 other states that got approved while Guam was awarded in 2011," Camacho said "This is just another step in creating and expanding affordable, flexible, accessible, and responsive transit system for our veterans, other citizens, and guests alike. We are excited and look forward to working with our partners and supporters in initializing, implementing and sustaining this worthy project."

Funds will be used to support project administration costs; a temporary one-call/click center, software transportation system with hardware and communications, inclusive of driver tablet, automatic vehicle location system, and mobile data terminals; software for scheduling, e-fare, dispatching, billing, communications; consumer mobile applications; computers and accessories for project administration, A&E and building construction to house a permanent one-call/click service center to be administered and maintained under COTA. Grant goals and objectives will be completed within two years.

"Currently we have veterans from our neighboring islands of Rota and Tinian who are experiencing difficulties with accessing transportation to meet their doctor's appointment on Saipan. This problem is just one of the few and we are glad we can now have the ability and future technology to address it," said Camacho. ***(Office of the Governor)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-020

SUPPLY & DELIVERY PREPAID METERS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Remote Disconnect Prepaid Meters for CUC Power Division, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-12-020, Supply & Delivery of Remote Disconnect Prepaid Meters"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM, (ChST) on July 24, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **July 20, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply – mika.muna@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/S/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-021

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF DRINKING WATER & CUBE ICE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of bottled drinking water & cube ice for CUC Administration and Operation Division Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-021, Supply & Delivery of Drinking Water & Cube Ice", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM, (ChST) on August 9, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **July 23, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply – mika.muna@cucgov.org

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner: Lydia Valera Parks

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LYDIA VALERA PARKS, Petitioner, vs.	)	CIVIL ACTION FCD-DI NO. 12-0087
STEPHEN FRANCIS PARKS, Respondent.	)	SUMMONS

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT, STEPHEN FRANCIS PARKS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the **PETITION FOR DIVORCE**, a copy of which is given to you herewith. You have Twenty (20) Days after service of this Summons upon you to file an answer with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewee, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307. Your answer should be in writing. It may be prepared and signed for you by your Attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. You are to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to **Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**, as soon as practicable after filing your answer to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

SO ORDERED on this 17th day of February, 2012.

/s/Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioners

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR ADOPTION OF: H.R.P.S., A Minor Child	FCD-AD Civil Action No. 12-0299
By: Pedro Sasamoto and Ernestina Togawa Sasamoto.	

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR ADOPTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Court shall hear the above entitled matter on this 6th day of August, 2012, at 1:30 pm, on the Petitioner's Petition for Adoption in the above captioned matter.

Dated this 18th day of June, 2012.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

More tickets printed for Las Vegas Night

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Rotary Club vice president Laila Y. Boyer announced yesterday that additional tickets for the upcoming Las Vegas Night have been printed and are now ready for sale. This is on top of the tickets they initially produced and were sold since last week.

Las Vegas Night is the biggest annual fundraising activity of the Rotary Club and is slated this year on Saturday, July 14, at the Saipan World Resort beginning at 7pm.

Because of the additional tickets produced, Boyer hinted at the possibility of adding a few more cash prizes, depending on how many tickets would be sold from the additional booklets.

This year's grand prize is either $10,000 or a brand new Hyundai Elantra. Other cash prizes at stake include $3,000; $2,000; $1,000; and $500 for raffle winners.

Tickets to the fundraising event cost $5 each or $20 for a booklet containing five tickets. Boyer said two more meetings are scheduled for members prior to the Saturday event. Tickets will also be sold on Thursday at the Garapan Street Market.

The program for the event will have the theme "Stars and Stripes" in celebration of Liberation Month. Rotarians are encouraged to dress up in red, white, and blue.

Proceeds from this year's Las Vegas Night are earmarked for Rotary's Kagman children's park project. There will be an orientation for all volunteers before game night. The Rotary is also on the lookout for more volunteers to serve as dealers and cashiers at the event.

FOA board holds annual retreat, planning meeting

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Friends of the Arts board members at their annual strategic planning retreat. From left, Frank Gibson, Leo Goode, Susan Batage, Leila Staffler, Harold Easton, Susan Fishman-Tudor, Ruth de Lemos-Loyola, and Paul DuJua.

The annual Friends of the Arts board retreat and strategic planning meeting took place on July 7, 2012, at the Marianas Resort and Spa.

The current board leadership consists of Susan Fishman-Tudor, president; Paul Dujua, vice president; Frank Gibson, treasurer; and Ruth De Lemos-Loyola, secretary. Board members include Harold Easton, Leo Goode, and Andrew Golden. They welcomed two new board members to the team, Susan Batage and Leila Staffler.

The Friends of the Arts' mission is to be a volunteer, self-sustaining, non-profit corporation that promotes and provides opportunities for the Northern Mariana Islands community to experience, participate in, and enjoy the arts. The intent of all FOA projects is to enrich and educate the community through artistic processes by creating opportunities for the CNMI community to experience, participate in, and better appreciate the arts.

This year's strategic planning included reviewing the existing FOA vision, mission and values, and determining the slate of shows that will be produced by the FOA this year. Research is being done on the availability of each show and the selection for the upcoming season will be announced once finalized. Community members can plan ahead and expect shows: Oct. 12, 13, and 14; December TBA; Feb. 14, 15, and 16; and May 17, 18, and 19.

Friends of the Arts would like to invite all community members to join with FOA and support and attend each show this year. General membership and sponsorship of FOA is $20 for an individual or $25 for families. General membership in the Friends of the Arts translates into a discount to all shows for the year and assisting the Friends of the Arts in providing live theater to the community. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteering in any capacity (set, music, acting, etc.), contact treasurer and membership chair, Frank Gibson, at flgibson@yahoo.com or the president, Fishman-Tudor, at msmrizer@hotmail.com. Like us on Faceboook @ Friends of the Arts, Saipan! ***(FOA)***

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that IT&E will conduct a network maintenance upgrade on its Internet service on Sunday, July 15th, between 11:00pm to 4:00am. Internet service in the CNMI will be affected momentarily and we anticipate intermittent down time throughout the maintenance period. Sunday's maintenance is part of IT&E's network upgrade that will provide a more reliable service to the CNMI.

Call IT&E at 682-4483 for more information.

IT&E
Life in Motion

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

John Gonzales LIVE tonight

John Gonzales LIVE tonight will feature the topic Youth & Parenting, with guest speakers Abner Venus, Josephus Aguilar, Jerome Malasarte, Clea San Nicolas, Mark Venus, Alex San Nicolas, Angel Malasarte, Mercy Usenuku, and Javier Virabume.

John Gonzales LIVE airs Wednesday and rebroadcasts on Monday and Tuesday the following week—all during primetime viewing from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on MCV Ch. 14. *John Gonzales LIVE* also rebroadcasts worldwide on Betelnut Radio (www.betelnutradio.com).

Viewers can participate by calling (287-4230), texting (285-META) (6382), OR emailing (johngonzaleslive@gmail.com). ***(PR)***

Chamber's meeting today at Kanoa Resort

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will host its July general membership luncheon meeting at the newly christened Kanoa Resort in Susupe today. Luncheon will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting begins at 12pm. Luncheon is $20 for SCC members, and $30 for guests and non-members.

SCC will present two speakers this Wednesday: Oscar Camacho, from the Commonwealth Development Authority, will present CDA's role in the State Small Business Credit Initiative. Perry Inos, heading the CNMI Department of Commerce's Small Business Development Center, will present an overview of training workshops available to Chamber members and non-members. SBDC would like input from the Chamber on desired workshop topics and training. ***(SCC)***

Free Army Reserve Enrichment Camp

The Army Reserve's Child, Youth and School Services will host a free Youth Enrichment Camp on July 23-27 2012, at Marianas Trekking for children ages 4-12. For more information contact Travis Mckinney at (808) 438-1600 Ext. 3374 or email travis.mckinney@us.army.mil, or Chris Nelson at 323-8735. ***(PR)***

Free films every Friday at the park

The American Memorial Park presents family-friendly films twice a day for free every Friday, at 2pm and 6pm, in the Visitors Center auditorium.

- July 13: Up (2pm and 6pm)
- July 20: Wall-E (2pm and 6pm)
- July 27: Meet The Robinsons (2pm and 6pm)
- Aug. 3: Ice Age (2pm)
- Aug. 10: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (2pm and 6pm)
- Aug. 17: Rio (2pm and 6pm)

The regularly scheduled First Friday Films at 6:30pm will continue. ***(AMP)***

JULY
14 & 15
2012
Budweiser
28TH ANNUAL
SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL
FISHING TOURNAMENT
2012
SAIPAN FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION
$10,000 CASH
To The First Team That Lands In A Marlin Weighing Over 624.34lbs
Launching Point(s): Sugar Dock (Chalan Kanoa), Garapan Fishing Base & Smiling Cove Marina
Launching Time(s): 6:00 am to 8:00 am
After 8:00 am – Smiling Cove Marina Only
Entrance Fee: $150.00 Per Boat For One Captain & One Crew (2 Total)
$25.00 Each Additional Crew
Type Of Fishing: Trolling
Boat Safety Inspection: Pre-Boat Safety Inspection (Encouraged)
Contact: Department Of Public Safety (Boating Safety Unit) 664-9180 For Inspections
Registration Starts At 5:30 am
The Derby Officially Begins At 6:00 am
And Continues Throughout The Day Until 6:00 pm
Pre-Registration: Smiling Cove Marina
Friday, July 13, 2012
5:00 pm to 6:30 pm
The official weigh station is at Smiling Cove, all boats must enter their catch at Smiling Cove no later than 6:00 pm
For more information about the tournament, contact the MVA Headquarters at (670) 664-3200/01 or fax to (670) 664-3237 or send inquiries to ftudela@mymarianas.com
DELTA
docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC
pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.
Mobil We're drivers too.

Cultural rights are human rights—UN expert

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegates at the first cultural rights symposium for the Pacific Islands region in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

HONIARA, Solomon Islands—Delegates at the first cultural rights symposium for the Pacific were told yesterday that their cultural rights are enshrined in a number of international human rights conventions. Despite this, these rights continue to go unrecognized.

Speaking at the opening of the three-day symposium, which is being held at the same time as the 11th Festival of Pacific Arts in Honiara, Solomon Islands, Farida Shaheed, a United Nations Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, said, "The concept of cultural rights is enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights of the United Nations (which includes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. …The declaration says everyone has the right to freely participate in the cultural life of the community."

In addition, Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights addresses the rights of minorities in particular to enjoy their own culture; profess and practice their own religion; and use their own language. Shaheed said the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has expanded on this, stating that the ideal of free human beings enjoying freedom from fear and want can only become a reality when everyone can enjoy their economic, social, and cultural rights as well as their civil and political rights. She said that "Article 1 [of this convention] speaks about the right to freely pursue economic, social, and cultural development while Article 15 specifies the right of everyone to participate in cultural life."

Shaheed summarized cultural rights as: 1) The right to take part in cultural life; 2) The right to language; 3) The right to education; and 4) The right to artistic expression.

The symposium, which brings together several of the region's forward-thinkers on culture to discuss cultural rights in the Pacific context (and in relation to other human rights), as well as intellectual property and traditional knowledge, was organized by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the World Intellectual Property Organization. ***(Secretariat of the Pacific Community)***

Betel nut sellers reportedly forced off street in Solomons

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Betel nut vendors on the main road through the Solomon Islands capital say city council staff armed with bush knives have removed their stalls and stopped them from doing business.

Honiara is the venue for the 11th Festival of Pacific Arts, a two-week event that has attracted thousands of people from other parts of the country, along with overseas visitors.

A local landowner who allows single mothers to sell betel nut on his property says he has room for 97 stalls.

Stanley Kaipua says he doesn't know if the festival is the reason the council drove many of them away.

"They are armed and come with bush knives into my private area... I don't know what to say. People have to show their culture. If you go to another country they can sell what they want, for example in Vanuatu or Fiji, they sell kava at the main road, while Solomon Islands tries to hide the betel nut – it's part of our culture."

Stanley Kaipua says he is going to take legal action against the council.

3,000 workers appeal for increased minimum wage in Vanuatu

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (Vanuatu Daily Post/PIR)—Some 3,000 employees in the private sector in Port Vila and Luganville Santo have made a call to the Prime Minister and the Government of Vanuatu yesterday to consider increasing the minimum wage or seriously look at how to resolve their plight.

This is a follow up call after the intended strike action by hotel workers was stopped by the Minister for Internal Affairs during the recent ACP-EU international Conference in Port Vila.

A spokesman for the employees, Philimon Hango, told *Daily Post* that today's cost of living can no longer be tolerated.

He said workers in the private sector who earn a mere Vt147 [US$1.59] per hour are asking for an increase to Vt250 [US$2.70] an hour across the board.

"I am speaking on behalf of some 3,000 workers in the private sector in both Port Vila and Luganville Santo who receive a mere Vt147 an hour, or around Vt12,000 [US$129] a fortnight or Vt24,000 [US$259] a month.

"When you add rent, water, electricity, school fees, medical fees, transport and food let alone other costs, you are practically living under poverty line. The cost of living in Vanuatu according to our information is one of the highest in the world and so how can the government and the employers expect the workers to receive Vt147 an hour to make ends meet every pay day?" Hango questioned.

"The workers in low paid jobs have held out for far too long but now are the time to raise our concerns to the Government and employers. Right now, the workers cannot see a brighter future except making ends meet. Many have to struggle to find other means of income and this can sometime leads to unwanted social situations.

"We have heard some leaders, even MPs and politicians making such remarks as 'go back to your home islands.' If we leave our jobs and replaced by others, they will face the situation unless their wages increase to what we are now proposing.

"The MPs—the politicians—must understand that we do have land to go back to but there are difficulties with marketing products to Port Vila and Santo because of high cost of land and sea transportation. Even the rural population of Vanuatu also complaint because of high costs of basic commodities such as kerosene, school fees, medical fees and other basic costs.

"Another difficulty is we have land—massive land to develop—but when you approach the banks for loan, the first question they ask you if you have a property or an asset in Port Vila town or Luganville town to mortgage or borrow against. They will not accept your land in the island which can be sold for millions of vatus.

"The question to ask is if Port Vila and Luganville are separate states from the rest of Vanuatu as far as lending policies are concerned," Hango said.

He said it is now 32 years since independence, but Vanuatu has not made real progress in terms of wage fairness to meet living conditions in Vanuatu today and there have been very little in terms of real industries growth in the country that would provide massive employment opportunities.

"We ask the present government to increase the minimum wage to meet the current standard of living in Vanuatu. And we call on the current Prime Minister to see that this happens before the dissolution of the current parliament," said Hango.

"We are consulting with the Vanuatu National Workers Union on steps and procedures that must be followed but otherwise we cannot wait any longer," he told *Daily Post.*

Govt mum on approval of casino for new Samoa resort

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—A Hawaii-based company that wants to build a casino in a five-star resort in Samoa says it has no idea when the government will decide if it will be given a license.

Samoa passed legislation in 2010, which will allow casinos to be built but the government has said only foreigners will be allowed to gamble there.

The National Council of Churches says it fears the love of money and the casino will only drive people further into poverty.

But the CEO of the South Pacific Development Group, Jesse James, says he has no idea when the government will make a decision on the licenses.

He says his company hasn't even started the application process and there are many companies which are interested in building the facilities.

James says over the next month they will start clearing the Savai'i village land they are leasing and plan to start construction of the resort next year.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 11, 2000

Teno gives green light to PCB cleanup

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has given the U.S. Army Corps the go signal for the cleanup of Cemetery no. 2 which has been contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) so that it can be used by the community in time for All Soul's Day. A meeting was held Friday attended by the governor, representatives from the Army Corps, the Attorney General's Office, the Division of Environmental Quality and the Tanapag Action Group (TAG) where details of the cleanup were discussed. A contract is expected to be signed by July 15 between the Army Corps and the Guam-based IT Corp., which will carry out the cleanup. Immediately, a workplan will be submitted by the contractor for approval by DEQ and the TAG. The removal of contaminated soil is expected to begin on Aug. 15, 2000.

Seatbelts recommended for school buses

The Public School System Pupil Transportation has disclosed plans to meet with the Bureau of Motor Vehicle and review existing transportation laws, which apparently overlooked the installation of seatbelts in school buses. Placing student safety on top of its priorities, the PSS busing fleet is proposing that authorities mandate all school buses to be equipped with seatbelts to minimize the impact of accidents. PSS Administrative Services Officer Jess Sanchez cited during a training on Defensive Driving for its personnel yesterday that school children aboard the buses are at risk without the seat belts.

July 11, 2001

$303K earmarked for several projects

After much wrangling over allocations, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed a bill yesterday appropriating $303,957 to fund several projects. The money, to be sourced from the fees collected by Saipan Local Law 11-2, will principally go toward improvement projects in several schools in the district and to buy equipment for the Northern Islands, such as seismographic equipment for the Emergency Management Office and boats. However, with so many projects and so little money to go by, the lawmakers were faced with a dilemma of how to divide the meager resources at hand, forcing them to readjust the original allocations set forth in House Local Bill 12-40.

HANMI reiterates stand on power hookup issue

Hotel industry leaders remain opposed to moves by government to compel hotels in the islands to hook up to the power systems operated by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands Vice President Mustafa Issa yesterday said hotels still need more time to study the viability of having to rely 100 percent on island power for their electricity needs. Issa, who is also the General Manager of Hyatt Regency Saipan, made the assertion in light of the pressure currently being exerted on Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino by Coastal Resources Management on the power hookup issue.

July 11, 2002

Over $3.5M needed to rehabilitate Rota

As the Commonwealth awaits the response of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for a joint preliminary damage assessment on Rota, the island would need at least $3.5 million to recover from the destruction caused by typhoon Chata'an. This was disclosed by Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona, in his preliminary damage assessment report submitted to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, following his declaration of the island as a local disaster area. In a related development, however, the Emergency Management Office said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is asking FEMA's assistance to fund its study mission on Rota, which seeks to identify flood-prone areas on the island so that evacuation of residents would be made systematic.

Fund's Board now down to four

And then there were four. The terms of two board of trustees members of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund expired Tuesday, leaving just four of seven members sitting on the board. And while that still constitutes a quorum, another term expiration on July 31 would further cut down the number to three, which is not a quorum. Unless Gov. Juan N. Babauta acts soon to reappoint those members with expired terms or replace them with new appointees, the Fund's board could be paralyzed and prevented from acting on several important policy decisions and projects.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Three-time winner Maria T. White traded her 100 labels for multiple spins and brought home two gift certificates to a day at the water park with brunch for four and an Xbox Kinect.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Renato M. Noble's spin gave him a $100 Joeten shopping certificate.

Coca-Cola winners spin for prizes at 2nd redemption event

Collect labels, win big prizes.

Maria T. White collected 100 Coca-Cola labels and received a big payoff when she won an Xbox Kinect and not just one but two waterpark and brunch gift certificates for four during the second redemption event of Coca-Cola's "Spin it to win it" promo held in June at the Joeten Shopping Center in Susupe.

For the second month since Coca-Cola's "Spin it to win it" promo started in May, Coca-Cola lovers all over Saipan have been collecting dozens of labels of Coca-Cola bottled products for a chance to win prizes on the roulette or for a guaranteed instant win.

An hour before the scheduled two-hour second redemption started in June, contestants with at least 25 labels were already forming a queue to the redemption booth to get a head start at spinning the wheel.

Emma D. Cabrera, the first one in line, was immediately gratified when she won a Blackberry Pearl.

"My daughter did not wish for any of the bigger prizes. She only wanted this phone. I'm so happy that I won this for her. Thank you, Coca-Cola," Cabrera said.

Other lucky Coca-Cola contestants who spun the wheel brought home a host of valuable prizes for fun and leisure. Renato M. Noble, won a $100 Joeten Shopping Gift Certificate; Everly Pangilinan landed a waterpark with brunch gift certificate for four at Saipan World Resort. Sonya Isip's and Nylin R. Manahan's spins gave each of them a brunch gift certificate for three at Aqua Resort Club's Costa Restaurant. Michelle Taisacan won a brunch gift certificate for one at PIC's Magellan Club.

Movie packages composed of movie tickets without expiration dates and coupons that could be used to purchase more movie tickets or food and drinks at the concession were won by Edwin Soriente, Jojo Lazaro, Genoven Tyquiengco, and Zack Dedo.

Fitial Ibn, Ray Masga, Arlene Fabia, and Edwin Soriente each received a Coca-Cola gift bag loaded with limited edition Coca-Cola Collector's items.

Subway Cash Cards went to three-time winner Edwin Soriente, first redemption winner Marichu Calitahan, John Fabia, Franco Ray T. Masga, Bella Castillo, and Moises Escalante.

Other winners opted to redeem for an instant prize. GM Narciso and Arturo Salazar traded their labels for both the Coca-Cola cooler bag and Foremost tote bag with product. First redemption event winner, Marilou P. Paet chose a Coca-Cola cooler bag. Marico De Belen exchanged his labels for a Foremost gift bag. Miki Tsakagushi skipped the wheel for Foremost Scoops gift certificates. For her instant prize, two-time winner Arlene Fabia swapped over her labels for Foremost Scoops Gift Certificates.

Dozens of valuable prizes including an Xbox Kinect, $200 Joeten Shopping Certificates, gas certificates, movie packages, and collector's items await the winners at the third and final redemption event on Friday, July 13, from 4pm to 6pm at Joeten Shopping Center, Susupe. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Contestants eager to get a head start at spinning the roulette of prizes formed a line an hour before the second redemption event of Coca-Cola's "Spin it to win it" promo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Emma D. Cabrera, the first one in line, won a Blackberry Pearl.

Subway receives Heart-Check Meal Certification

TAMUNING, Guam—Eating healthier just got easier at Subway restaurants. The world's largest restaurant chain, announces that they are the first and only quick service restaurant to apply and meet the American Heart Association's Heart-Check Meal Certification Program nutritional criteria.

This prestigious meal certification from the American Heart Association, the nation's most recognized and trusted authority on heart health, which comes after a nearly 12-year relationship, is a reflection of Subway restaurants' relentless drive to enhance its products and be the health trailblazer in the quick serve restaurant category by offering fans nutritious options that do not sacrifice taste or variety.

Starting today Subway will have Heart-Check certified meal available

Subway restaurants' fans will have a variety of meal offerings that meet the American Heart Association's Heart-Check Meal Certification Program requirements on nutritional criteria for heart health, while also promoting taste and flavor.

The iconic Heart-Check logo will be present on Subway restaurant menus nationwide. Fans will find the Heart-Check on all Subway Fresh Fit meals featuring a variety of 6" inch subs served with an apple and water and Subway Fresh Fit for Kids meals served with an apple and 8 oz non-fat milk, along with a selection of salads served with an apple, water and sweet onion dressing.

These meals meet the Heart-Check's nutritional criteria for levels of sodium, calories, cholesterol, saturated fat and trans-fats. All of the Heart-Check items must be prepared using the recipes approved and certified to meet American Heart Association nutritional standards.

"All 16 Subway restaurants on Guam and Saipan are proud to be certified by the AHA to carry the Heart-Check menu items. It has always been our commitment to offer healthy and fresh alternatives to traditional quick-serve restaurants and this certification by the AHA further reinforces that. With the alarming rate of childhood obesity and other health concerns within our island communities, it is our duty to provide choices for a healthier lifestyle," said Marcos Fong, managing director of Subway Guam.

The American Heart Association and the Subway restaurant brand share the common goal to help consumers practice healthier eating. Subway restaurants will continue to provide better-for-you options as part of the menu offerings and be a category leader as a healthier fast food alternative that meets consumers' nutritional needs and expectations for taste, convenience and value.

For more information about Subway restaurants' American Heart Association Heart-Check certified meals visit: www.Subway.com.

Additional information about the Heart-Check Meal Certification from American Heart Association or other ways the organization is helping consumers eat healthy and stay fit, visit www.heartcheckmark.org. ***(Subway)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 163

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

Olympic gridlock? Not necessarily

By JOHN HISCOCK
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LONDON—Like most taxi drivers here, the one negotiating us through the heavy traffic along the Strand had plenty to say. But instead of the usual taxi driver topics of politics or bad drivers, the subject uppermost on his mind was the Olympics and how he was looking forward to missing them.

"Me and the missus are going away," he volunteered. "We've booked a holiday in Majorca for some sun and to get away from London. A lot of my mates are doing the same."

The reason, he said, was that he and his fellow drivers expect the traffic situation to be intolerable during the Olympics, mainly because London Mayor Boris Johnson and the London Organizing Committee have decreed that several of the city's main thoroughfares will be closed to all vehicles except VIP transport. And with the organizers advising those heading for the Olympic venues that it might be quicker to walk or cycle, the financial outlook for taxi drivers was not bright, he said, although that's not quite how he put it.

He is not the only one issuing grim predictions. The satirical magazine *Private Eye* published a complete map of London, which it says is a "travel black spot" to be avoided during the Olympics. Elsewhere a cartoon predicts a new Olympic world record—four hours for traveling a bit more than 300 feet in London traffic.

There is plenty more fodder for the prophets of doom: Up to 1 million visitors are expected for the Games, putting added strain on border security agents at airports like London's Heathrow, which has already been criticized for its long lines and lack of staff to screen those arriving from other countries.

The *Daily Mail* newspaper, always eager to take up the cudgels on behalf of the consumer, warns that airport-style security in force at the sports venues means all liquids in containers of 3.4 ounces or more will be confiscated—leaving visitors to buy drinks at inflated prices once inside.

A bottle of water, it harangues, will cost $2.50 and vendors will be charging $10 for a pint of beer, $3 for a cup of tea and $7.20 for "a small serving of London 2012 red wine." And a basic lunch from the official food stalls will cost $60.

Terrorism, of course, is an ever-present threat, and the pessimists are quick to point out that the terror level has been labeled "substantial." Officials counter with statistics: The Games will be protected by some 12,000 police officers during peak times and 23,700 security staff—a number that includes 13,500 troops on standby, which is more than the 9,500 British troops currently in Afghanistan. Surface-to-air missiles will be set up at six sites in and around London. A no-fly zone will also be established over Olympic venues from July 14 to Aug. 15.

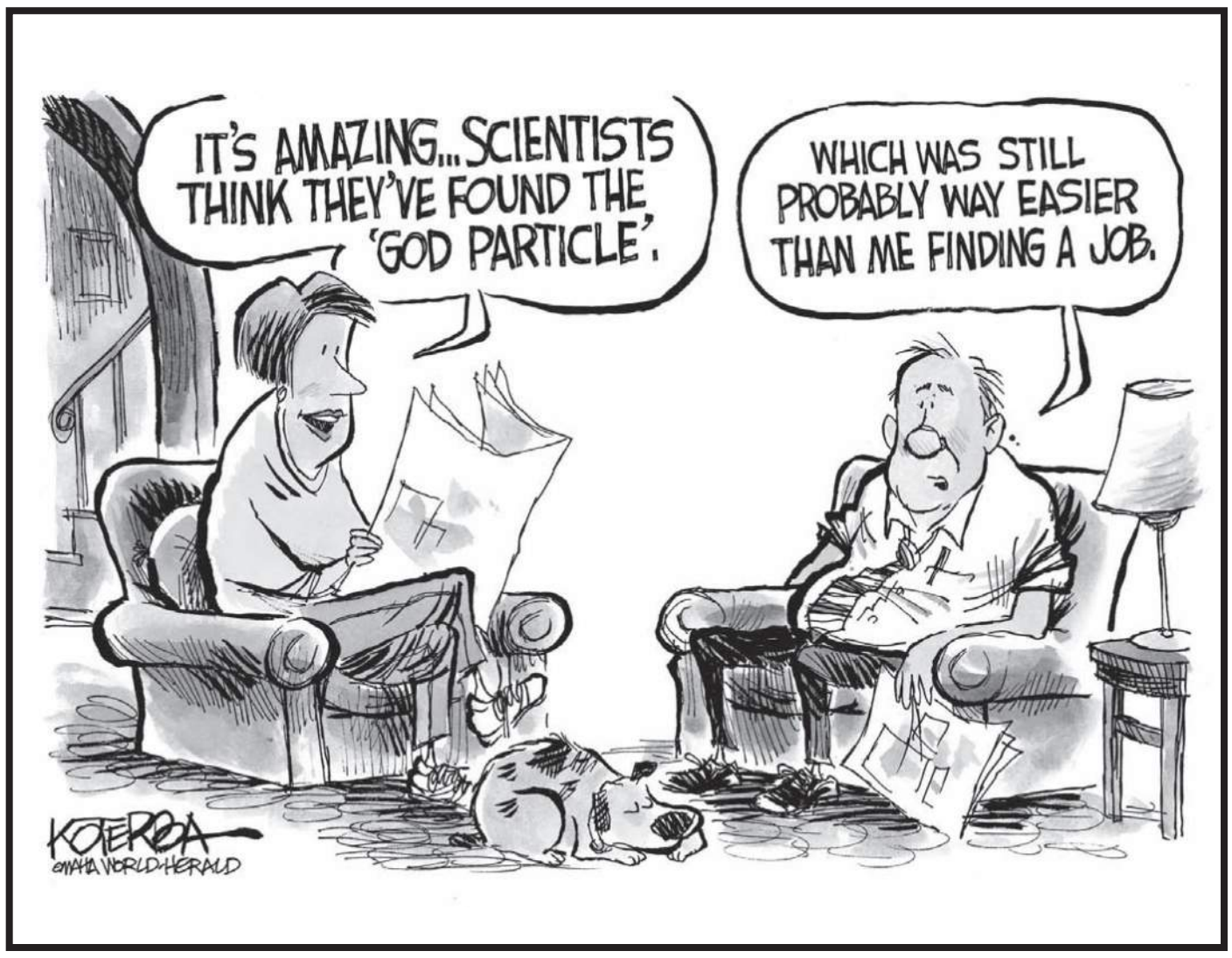
"It'll be a total nightmare, mate," says our taxi driver. "Nothing but flipping chaos."

For those of us who were in Los Angeles during the 1984 Olympics, the gloomy prophecies have an all-too-familiar ring.

Back then, we heard the same warnings of highway traffic jams, an impassable Olympic Boulevard and other city streets clogged around the clock, airport logjams, price-gouging and an influx of prostitutes, pimps and pickpockets from around the world, all bent on preying on unwary Olympics-goers.

It turned out that the opposite came to pass, and the L.A. Olympics were judged a great success. Crime was minimal,

See OLYMPIC on Next Page


IT'S AMAZING... SCIENTISTS THINK THEY'VE FOUND THE 'GOD PARTICLE'.
WHICH WAS STILL PROBABLY WAY EASIER THAN ME FINDING A JOB.
KOERBA
©OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

Oh, thank heaven for seven eleven

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Dial that number and you might get lucky, we were told. Desperate as parents who wanted to know more about autism in the mid-'90s, we did, but we got the TRS that relayed calls for the deaf.

"Oh Thank Heaven for Seven Eleven" was the slogan of the store where I, as Mr. Mom within the beltway of Washington, D.C., took my daughter and son at the end of our morning walk around the Jefferson Links in Falls Church, VA mid-'90s. This was before my children were confirmed to be autistic, although the children's behavior already indicated that the diagnosis for PDD-NOS clearly led to ASD. Andrea and Daniel were no fans of Slurpee and the Big Gulp, but they did like frozen dairy products, which turned out later not to help their wellbeing.

In my teens, the town where I went to high school set tables long before fiesta day to provide dice games for the starry eyed and gullible. We watched folks lose their shirts going after lady luck's smile on seven-eleven!

We are not the gambling type, though part of Iberia's influence in the Philippines and the Marianas is enslaving the masses with games of chance. Pinoys favor the *pintakasi,* now a tourist attraction on Saipan of the blood-spattering cockfight.

Gambling considered recreational rather than as organized con on the unwary might be what keeps the casino initiative on Saipan endure with such tenacity. In China, the game of chance is a way of life. *Mahjong* parlors abound. Tables take only a minute to set up in many shops and homes. Many office workers take their lunch breaks by swirling the tiles, and when lucky, or, losing badly, tend to keep their seats warm.

I met a Chinese woman on Saipan who was a Red Guard during Mao's time but fell into the addiction of power and possession. After her red-book-raising days, she moved to Saipan and began a food service business. However, she diverted earnings to Tinian's casino, and withheld moneys from employees on the pretense that she was borrowing them to be paid with interest in due time. Her gambling losses were considerable.

One of her employees wanted his money and came to our Methodist Resource Center for assistance. We provided him refuge until he got steadier on his feet. He received promises but never his money! Nor did the rest of the employees, including a teary eyed sister who saw 10 years of wages down the drain!

There is something attractive about the stance of allowing external situations to determine one's future. After all, reality hardly lends itself to easy human control and management, so why not *que sera sera*? This has led to dependence on Christian theodicy and its archaic gobbledygook, and the gibberish that passes for statements of faith is not exclusive to those under the shadow of the Cross.

Choice and intentionality, the core of our urban, secular, and scientific times, had their beginnings in numerology (determinism by numbers evolved into mathematics), astrology (fortune telling through star formation became astronomy), and alchemy (reliance on enchanting powers became chemistry). But the determination of one's future through the etched lines on one's palm, or the date of one's birth, or one's sign of the constellation or animal zodiac is practiced beyond the parlor game mode.

Asia abounds with shops promising to read one's future for a fee. They facilitate séances, read bird entrails and turtlebacks, then become the illuminati and advisers to the elite, turning into religious clerics and hacks, finally ending in a couch, with a PhD in counseling! Modern politicos hide behind the methods of statistical probability.

"Oh, thank heaven for seven eleven" is not an inappropriate greeting today, at least, in terms of the convenience store that has become the largest franchise in the world, overtaking McDonald's.

Mostly open 24/7, the first convenience stores operated from seven in the morning to eleven before midnight, hence the name. Now the stores are a network of franchises holding a commonality of red-green-orange on white stripes fronts but permissive of individual uniqueness and diversity inside.

One thing Seven-Eleven does not rely on, even in China, is luck on its fate and destiny!

In my childhood, my playmates carried amulets to ward off devils and invite angels. They carried salt to throw behind them as they walked past the banana groves, entreating spirits to keep their distance.

On my windowsill is a used small jar of Oil of Olay, which a friend carried to hold her coconut oil in, to salve scaly skin while in Oahu early this year. I've inherited the oil for my scalier skin, and added a dab of lotion aprés-rasage (Grey Flannel from Geoffrey Beene, to the Champ Elyseé crowd). It is the closest thing I have to a good luck charm.

We celebrate a birthday today on seven eleven, a good time to accompany greetings with wishes of good fortune. The philosophy of happy happenstance is alive and well. Hep, Hep, Olay!

We do take breakfast at seven and head for bed at eleven. We keep open the choices we make. Intentionality has the option on being able to freely decide, redirect one's mind, then act accordingly.

I do thank heaven for seven eleven!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'Ai, I don't know Maria!'

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

The fresh scent of newly mowed lawn was welcome and a hopeful diversion after a long bout the night before with the humorous sigh of total surrender, "I don't know Maria!" It was loosely stuck in my subconscious that came roaring back in a nightmare.

How do we deal with sedentary public officials (our collective Maria) nursing obesity, pigging themselves with bone soup, sashaying like 100-year-old turtles long forgotten by civilization? Or do they need us to shield them from the deepening humiliation of apparent obsolescence?

"I don't know Maria" is a thematic refrain of spiteful though humorous sigh from folks all over who've given up the ship. Too, I no longer find it pleasurable listening to seemingly redundant sentiment, given the reality wrapped around it. Would I be able to change it or do I also surrender by following the choir of despondency?

It's time to format a template (plan) to recapture and rebuild our future even if it means revolting against royal misfits on the hill. I could no longer stand the culprits donning the halo of Do-Nothings, smiling competently in mediocrity. Deafening their lack of moral humility to do what's right, proactively. Perhaps they relish the assumption that we would acquiesced being sent to the filthy swamp of abject poverty, a crowning achievement.

This brings me to the term "idea." Ideas are very powerful. Their expressions with perspective could make a powerful difference of night and day. Empty slogans won't work and are no substitute for ideas. Not only do ideas have consequences, but also only ideas have large and lasting consequences. It may be a slow process but a process you can't suppress nor derail once it begins its forward motion. Change is a darn good idea for this midterm election.

Leadership requires the undivided conviction of placing the interest of others before yours as public servants. But they have a sterling record of working for themselves. Legislators are getting a $5,000 monthly stipend on top of their regular salaries. No wonder nobody wants to move decisively to do what's right and not when it may mean loss of stipend, di ba? Have they done anything (Republicans, Covenant and independent Republicans) to revive the local economy in wealth and jobs creation so we could find sufficient funds at least for basic needs?

The myriad of issues that have piled up over the years has rendered our mind hypnagogic as we struggle to understand what went wrong in paradise. The non-resolution of livelihood issues had everyone quizzing if conditions really didn't prompt timely leadership role and isn't it apposite that they step forward today after six years of "do-nothing." Their deafening silence is disturbingly troubling.

I haven't given up for "this too shall pass" morphing into a bright sunny day after dark. But moving into a bright new day takes our individual and collective effort. We must change the course of history. We no longer could sit idly by as spectators. Let's recapture our future. Take the proverbial first step. Your vote can make a difference. Nah, we must part with "I don't know Maria! With hope and steely determination we can do it for posterity.

■■■

Health: A personal responsibility

It's important that we humbly join hands to resolve the dire need to take health seriously as a personal responsibility. This is prompted by the crisis the local people face with diabetes and heart problems. It's two of the most debilitating illnesses (lifestyle or genetics) that are fatally costly for both families of patients and the local government.

The fact that money for medical referral has dropped significantly makes it the more important that we come to terms with our personal health. If you will, last fiscal year's deficit of $25 million is debt largely incurred by the medical referral program. The recent cut in funds is a tale that we have far less for this purpose. It's also a tale that the local population is very sick. We need to meet the two beasts forthwith.

Yes, I've heard folks say we have doctors and the hospital to take care of his/her health issues. This is a very sickly attitude. What's the use of sending you to an off-island medical center when you have already contracted lung cancer? Will it help your situation as a heart patient meeting a top-notch cardiologist when excessive smoking, alcohol consumption, and poor eating habits have clogged nearly all arteries and destroyed your heart muscles?

Too, there's the tension that surfaces when a critically ill patient is close to dying. The doctor pushes to save him. His family would likewise. The patient rarely plans on dying. As the collision of tension intensifies, the cost of specialty treatment skyrockets. Dying is the period when medical services are at its highest.

Yes, Medicare may assist defray the medical cost but the length of treatment may also involve other medical specialties that would push expenses astronomically. This could very well occur when after heart surgery the patient contracts what's known as "sepsis," a severe infection from a multi-drug resistant deadly bacterium. It would trigger the amputation and removal of limbs that still doesn't guarantee health recovery. It's mind numbing both the cost of services and the emotional roller coaster that the family had to endure. I've been there twice and it's no fun at all.

Definitely, the NMI needs to address health and healthcare in sober fashion. In my book, it remains the costliest item on our wish list. I still maintain too that timely public health education programs are the answers to preventing catastrophic illnesses. Health begins with the self. It's all up to you to forge healthy habits. Like a ship, you're the captain and only you can navigate your boat safely to port. Take charge!

■■■

Legislative Omission

The Legislature dilly-dallies with two issues it's struggling to turn into an initiative, both of which simply miss the most fundamentally flawed aspect of Article 12: Denial of full ownership of private land. The approval in reduction of blood quantum or extending the lease period still doesn't resolve denial of landownership.

Sending people to court to determine genealogy is fodder for comedy. In short, DNA technology isn't equipped to determine, i.e., how much of your blood is French, German, Chamorro, or Carolinian.

Why the delusional and presumptuous view on a nonexistent technology? It seems a last ditch effort in silent desperation to promote ethnocentricity or indigenous hegemony that is at best racist and discriminatory at worst? When do we outgrow immaturity so we could own up to citizenship responsibility?

The irony in arguments from pro-Article 12 is the "preservation" of so-called indigenous land. Extending the lease provision only prolongs the denial of use of private land among subsequent heirs from 55 to 99 years. All must wait this long before actual use of the family land. It still displaces heirs! So where's the argument about preservation for use of land by indigenous children when they can't touch it for 99 long years? It doesn't add up, does it?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I'm confused

I'm confused. The newly promised airline might have equated to more revenue. Also there is a fresh anticipation that revenues from the private sector (business gross revues and hotel occupancies) will increase. This will allow the CNMI to increase its budget for 2013. Why the sudden new economic stimulus in 2013? I'm confused as to what is creating this expected stimulus? There are no external forces that are creating this that I am aware of. What has CNMI government leaders done to project this economic stimulus? More importantly how will these unproven revenue sources be prioritized? Will government workers' hours be restored to 80 hours? Government services have been cut for approximately 24 months due to austerity. In the meantime demands for these services have tapered off. So why restore government workers to 80 hours per pay period? Why not create a more effective and efficient government by reorganizing it to factor in this 20 percent savings permanently? Or is reorganizing the government to be effective and efficient not a priority?

The local utility corporation cannot pump drinking water into homes. This is considered a basic service in most developed communities. Electric power, a necessity in a modern society, is prohibitively expensive in the CNMI. The utility corporation appears to be having a difficult time paying its vendors in a timely fashion. These are significant concerns toward community development. Yet these concerns are exacerbated because the government does not appear to prioritize its utility own payments. Are government utility payments a priority?

The CNMI medical infrastructure appears to be near total collapse. Medical personnel seem to be leaving in droves with no plan on replacing them. Medical equipment is not being maintained nor replaced. Supplies are capriciously low. Is the CNMI medical infrastructure a priority?

The CNMI workforce still consists largely of contract workers. There appears to be no organized approach regarding immigration reform and building capacity within the workforce by the government. There are rumors propagated by local government officials that a large group of illegal aliens reside within the CNMI. Yet there appears to be little cooperation with the federal government to address this. Indeed there is a move to increase either the length of time contract workers can stay or to allow them to stay with some type of permanent status. In the meantime there are pitifully lackluster efforts by the government to improve the capacity of the local labor force. Immigration/local workforce capacity building has been a neglected issue for over five years. Will it become a priority?

The CNMI government employee pension fund is clearly in a state of bankruptcy. This is largely due to a self-imposed government funding embargo. The government is literally starving its pension fund to death. This will have devastating consequences on many levels within the community. This will put greater stress on the family system to act as a social safety net. The retired government employees have been abandoned by the government thus the family will need to step up to fill the void. Current government employees who are approaching retirement will suddenly have to abandon all retirement plans, change course, and stay in the workforce for years to come, finally retiring at a much older age and with far less money. Few governments would consider such shameless treatment of their present and former personnel. A government that swiftly and without remorse abandons its constitutionally mandated fiduciary responsibilities to its own elderly clearly will not prioritize its legal commitments nor its ethical obligations to others. This will be something potential future investors will recognize.

So I'm confused. What will the CNMI budgetary plan of 2013 prioritize? One would think that such a small place with extremely limited resources, insignificant workforce capacity, and deteriorating infrastructure that the government leaders would cooperate and coordinate efforts to improve the current situation. Obviously some things will need prioritization. So I'm confused and curious. What will be the CNMI government leaders' priority?

Juan Cruz
Austin, Texas

OLYMPICS

From Page 10

prices remained stable, residents and businesses adjusted their work hours and motorists stayed away from the freeways, leaving the roads remarkably free of the usual traffic nightmares.

In fact, during the two weeks of those Games, the most sensational accident occurred not on the roads but on the Coliseum running track. That's where South African Zola Budd, running barefoot for Britain, collided with America's sweetheart, Mary Decker, sending the latter tumbling out of the 3,000-meter women's final.

So, while visitors to London for the 2012 Olympics may not be able to find a taxi, the odds are good that they will enjoy a trouble-free, if somewhat pricey, time.

John Hiscock is a Los Angeles-based correspondent for the Daily Telegraph of London. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds near 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds near 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds near 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88º ▼78º	▲88 º ▼78º	▲88º ▼78º	▲88º ▼78º	▲88º ▼78º

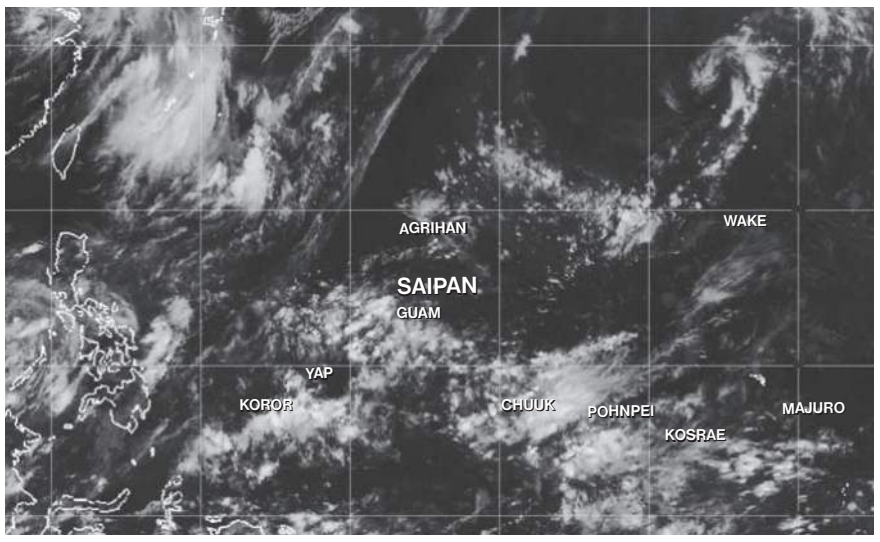
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲59	▼44
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲90	▼71
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90	▼82
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼72
London	Showers	▲66	▼53
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼65
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲59	▼48
Miami	Showers	▲88	▼78
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼69
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Paris	Showers	▲67	▼57
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲78	▼72
Rome	Sunny	▲92	▼71
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼56
San Francisco	Sunny	▲72	▼54
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲78	▼71
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲84	▼75
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲89	▼73

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northwest from 8N145E to 14N140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between Yap and Guam within 160 miles of a line from 13N140E to 10N145E. An upper-level trough west of Iwo To island extends south from beyond 25N136E to 21N135E. Isolated thunderstorms associated with the upper trough are seen well northwest of Guam north of a line from 21N130E to 21N135E. Converging surface winds are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Yap and Koror within 120 miles of a line from 4N131E to 7N140E. A surface trough extends northeast from 4N149E to 10N154E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present across Chuuk state within 160 miles of a line from 6N149E to 9N156E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Pohnpei and near Kosrae between 1N and 5N from 155E to 168E. A surface trough west of Wake Island extends northeast from 19N157E to beyond 25N at 162E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found south of Minami Tori Shima within 120 miles of a line from 23N152E to 19N159E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:51 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
8:59 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
2:49 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
8:13 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Thursday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today		12:17 PM
Thursday	12:13 AM	1:06 PM
Friday	12:53 AM	1:55 PM
Saturday	1:36 AM	2:44 PM
Sunday	2:21 AM	3:34 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 7, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

United announces Dreamliner induction plan

CHICAGO—United Airlines, the North American launch customer for the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, is today announcing details about its induction of the aircraft into the company's fleet and revealing a specially-designed livery for the revolutionary aircraft.

United is scheduled to take delivery of its first Dreamliner in late September. The aircraft cabin is being installed on the first aircraft, and will be configured with 36 seats in United BusinessFirst, 72 seats in United Economy Plus and 111 seats in United Economy. Cabin color selections use a palette of blue and grey and are consistent with other modern United aircraft.

Customers will experience greater comfort with improved lighting, bigger windows, larger overhead bins, lower cabin altitude and enhanced ventilation systems, among other passenger-friendly features. The 787's inflight entertainment system features an all-new design that offers more intuitive browsing and more filtering options, giving customers the option of searching for programs by language.

The airline's 787 fleet will feature a customized livery that is exclusive to the fleet: the gold line that wraps the fuselage will swoop from nose to tail. The swoop is inspired by the trademark swoop painted on each of Boeing's aircraft and is being adopted for the United 787 in a tribute to the two companies' long history of working together.

United Airlines' 787 fleet will feature a customized livery that is exclusive to the fleet: the gold line that wraps the fuselage will swoop from nose to tail. UNITED AIRLINES

United has been the launch customer for more than a dozen Boeing aircraft models, and was the first airline to operate the 767 and 777 aircraft. This tradition continues with United being the North America launch customer of the 787.

Delivery Preparations

In preparation for delivery of the first United Dreamliner, United installed a full-flight simulator at its Houston hub and is training pilots on operation of the aircraft. Flight attendants and mechanics have trained in 787 systems and operations, with additional training scheduled to continue through the remainder of the year. In addition, United is preparing to provide 787 maintenance support from its Houston base, and the airline is warehousing more than 1,180 different spare parts for easy and rapid access by its technicians.

The 787 will take United customers into the new generation of flying in an economical, efficient and environmentally friendly way. Primarily built with composite materials, the 787 has 30 percent more range and uses approximately 20 percent less fuel than similarly-sized aircraft, while reducing emissions and noise during takeoffs and landings. Because of these advantages, the 787 will open up new non-stop destinations that customers would not be able to otherwise reach on United, such as the recently-announced Denver-to-Tokyo service that starts next spring.

Following delivery of the first aircraft in September, the company will conduct a variety of tests and training, including completing Federal Aviation Administration conformity checks and proving runs. The company will then enter the 787 into scheduled service in the fall.

United is planning to place five Boeing 787s into service in 2012, and has firm orders for

a total of 50 new Dreamliners, with deliveries scheduled through 2019. ***(United)***

Euro finance ministers agree on bailout for Spain

BRUSSELS (AP)—Euro area finance ministers agreed early Tuesday on the terms of a bailout for Spain's troubled banks, saying that (EURO)30 billion ($36.88 billion) can be ready by end of this month.

The finance ministers for the 17 countries that use the euro as their official currency will return to Brussels on July 20 to finalize the agreement, having first obtained the approval of their governments or parliaments, eurozone chief Jean-Claude Juncker said early Tuesday morning.

As part of the agreement with Spain, finance ministers from all 27 European Union countries are expected Tuesday to approve a one-year extension, until 2014, of Spain's deadline for achieving a budget deficit of 3 percent.

There will be specific conditions for specific banks, and the supervision of the financial sector overall will be strengthened, Juncker said.

"We are convinced that this conditionality will succeed in addressing the remaining weakness in the Spanish banking sector," he said.

Dutch Finance Minister Jan Kees de Jager said the agreement should be finalized soon.

"We have a tentative deal on the bailout conditions for a bailout of Spanish banks," De Jager said. "The total will likely be 100 billion euros. Some countries like the Netherlands, Germany and Finland need to get parliamentary approval. We hope this can be wrapped up within a week."

The exact amount of the bailout will likely not be known until September, when individual examinations of different Spanish banks have been completed.

De Jager said Madrid's partners agree that "financial sector reforms in Spain must be ruthlessly implemented. These reforms include notably a cap on salaries of bank executives and a ban on bonuses."

However, he said a system of EU-wide banking supervision still needs to be worked out.

"There are still differences over this," he said. "The details will be worked out by the end of the year."

But on Monday, before the eurogroup meeting began, Mario Draghi, the chief of the European Central Bank, said he was confident that a banking union in the European Union would be achieved.

BlackBerry marketing head undeterred by share loss

NEW YORK (AP)—The new marketing chief for BlackBerry smartphones isn't dejected by perceptions that his products look ancient next to iPhones and Android devices.

Frank Boulben, four weeks into his job as chief marketing officer for Research in Motion Ltd., promises to impress people when phones running the company's new BlackBerry 10 software are released in early 2013, at least a year later than analysts had expected.

RIM will tout features that current devices lack, he said. Few details about BlackBerry 10 have been released, but the company has said it will include the ability to run multiple programs at once and will let users switch between programs without returning to the home screen. Android devices and iPhones typically require people to return to the home screen to start or resume an app, while traditional computers let you jump directly to them.

"You'll be able to flow seamlessly from one application to another," Boulben said in an interview Monday with The Associated Press. "The underlying operating system is truly multitasking."

But touting new features is just part of the challenge. BlackBerry devices will be handicapped because, compared with rivals, they have fewer games, utilities and other apps available to extend the phones' functionality.

Analysts believe RIM is running out of time to turn itself around. RIM is holding its annual shareholders meeting in Waterloo, Ontario, on Tuesday, less than two weeks after announcing disappointing financial results, deep job cuts and the latest delay in BlackBerry 10. Its stock is trading near a nine-year low and closed Monday at $7.67, down 43 cents, or 5.3 percent, for the day.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil drops to near $85 as China trade growth slows

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil dropped to near $85 a barrel Tuesday after weak Chinese trade figures suggested the economic slowdown in the world's second-largest crude consumer is deepening. China said Tuesday that June imports increased 6.3 percent, which was less than analyst forecasts and down by half from May's growth rate while export growth declined to 11.3 percent from 15.3 percent in May. Waning growth in Chinese demand for crude and other commodities suggests global oil consumption might be weaker than previously thought. Crude has fallen from $106 in May amid signs that economic growth in U.S., Europe and China is flagging.

Chinese firm to buy Hawker Beechcraft

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—Struggling aircraft maker Hawker Beechcraft announced Monday that it had reached a $1.79 billion "exclusivity agreement" with a Chinese aerospace manufacturer for the sale of its business jet and general aviation operations in a deal that will save thousands of jobs in Kansas and Arkansas. Under the agreement Beijing-based aerospace manufacturer Superior Aviation Beijing Co., Ltd., will buy Hawker Beechcraft and make payments over the next six weeks to support ongoing operations until the deal is finalized. The sale does not include Hawker Beechcraft Defense Co., which will remain a separate entity.

Buffett gives $1.9B to Gates, other charities

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Billionaire Warren Buffett has handed out $1.9 billion worth of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. stock as part of his plan to gradually give away most of his $44.1 billion fortune. Buffett disclosed his gifts of 22.4 million Class B Berkshire shares on Monday. The biggest gift of about 18.4 million shares worth more than $1.5 billion went to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in accordance with the plan Buffett outlined in 2006. Buffett also gave 1.8 million shares to his own foundation and 643,203 shares to each of his three children's foundations.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,736.29	1,352.46	2,931.77
-36.18	-2.22	-5.56
-0.28%	-0.16%	-0.19%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9831	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7546	Philippine Peso	41.9700
British Pound	0.6445	Indian Rupee	55.8050	Singapore Dollar	1.2715
Canadian Dollar	1.0207	Indonesian Rupiah	9,427.00	South Korean Won	1,144.03
Chinese Yuan	6.3700	Japanese Yen	79.5000	Swiss Franc	0.9774
Euro	0.8138	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1855	Taiwan Dollar	29.9540
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2597	Thailand Baht	31.7300

Nation

Obama seeks to shift election toward tax debate

WASHINGTON (AP)—Facing sagging jobs numbers, President Barack Obama sought to recast the November election as a fight over tax fairness on Monday, urging tax cut extensions for all families earning less than $250,000 but denying them to households making more than that.

The president's pitch was aimed at painting Republican rival Mitt Romney as a protector of the rich at a time of economic unease, as Democrats intensify efforts to raise questions about the Romney's own wealth and offshore bank accounts.

Romney supports extending the federal tax cuts, first signed by George W. Bush, for all income earners.

Obama said if Congress passes a one-year extension for those making less than $250,000, voters can use the November election to decide the fate of the cuts for higher income earners.

"My opponent will fight to keep them in place. I will fight to end them," said Obama, flanked by a dozen people the White House said would benefit from the tax cut extension.

The president has long supported ending the Bush-era tax cuts for those making more than $250,000. The White House and the president's re-election team are reviving his arguments now as a way to suggest that the push by Romney and congressional Republicans for an across-the-board extension of the tax cuts could put America's middle class at risk.

"Let's not hold the vast majority of Americans and our economy hostage while we debate the merits of another tax cut for the wealthy," Obama said at the White House.

The president's sudden focus on the tax fairness debate was also an attempt to change the election subject after yet another lackluster jobs report. New numbers released Friday showed the nation's unemployment rate stuck at 8.2 percent, giving Romney fresh grounds to attack Obama as unfit to steer the U.S. economy.

AP

President Barack Obama speaks in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, July 9, 2012.

Romney campaign spokeswoman Andrea Saul said the president was responding to the bad economic news by calling for a "massive tax increase."

"It just proves again that the president doesn't have a clue how to get America working again and help the middle class," Saul said.

Obama said his proposal was aimed at staving off an end-of-the year stalemate with Congress. But it appeared to have the opposite effect.

Congressional Republicans immediately balked, saying it would be a mistake to raise taxes on anyone while the economy was still struggling to recover. The House GOP plans to make its own push this summer for a full extension of the tax cuts.

Obama said later Monday that he would veto such a bill if it landed on his desk.

Ahead of Obama's remarks on Monday, White House officials consulted with congressional Democrats to shore up support within the party. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., a member of his party's Senate leadership, had both previously advocated extending the cuts to those who make up to $1 million annually, but on Monday they stood in solidarity with the president.

Obama angered many fellow Democrats in 2010 when he signed off on a full extension of the Bush tax cuts, in part to win concessions from Republicans on other legislation.

Extending the tax cuts only for households making below $250,000 would save the government about $800 billion over 10 years compared with extending them for everyone. The full cuts cost the government about $4.5 trillion over a decade.

Economists worry that across-the-board tax increases, along with automatic spending cuts also scheduled to take hold at year's end, could be a blow to the shaky U.S. economy.

About 2.5 million U.S. households had incomes of $250,000 annually or more, according to the 2010 U.S. Census. The median household income in 2010 was $49,445.

Romney, whose personal wealth could exceed $250 million, would be among the nation's richest presidents if elected, and the Obama campaign has sought to portray him as disconnected from middle class voters.

Democrats ramped up their calls over the weekend for Romney to release more of his tax returns, which would outline the investments he has lived off of for more than a decade.

Romney bests Obama donations with help of rich few

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama on Monday said he raised $71 million in June for his re-election campaign, after Republican candidate Mitt Romney reported $106 million during the same period. It was the second consecutive month that Romney collected more cash and underscores the challenge for Obama ahead of November.

The grim news for Obama came as his campaign officials have publicly worried they were on track to lose the money race. Obama's campaign manager, Jim Messina, in an email to supporters just three days ago, said: "Their gap is getting wider, and if it continues at this pace, it could cost us the election."

Obama is fighting on two fronts to keep the presidency: On one hand, he faces Romney's own war chest that pays for campaign operations. On the other, he has to push back against the hundreds of millions of dollars flowing to GOP-aligned "super" political action committees, or PACs, which have aired continual attack ads aimed at Obama and his record.

Indeed, wealthy donors have been instrumental in helping Romney beat Obama. When he broke fundraising records last month, Romney's campaign praised small-dollar donors it said made it possible. But it was actually a small and often wealthy number of donors responsible, who gave an average of about $2,400 each, according to an Associated Press analysis.

Like Obama, Romney often touts the high percentage of donors who gave less than $250, underscoring the perception that a large, grassroots group of Americans want him in the White House. Romney's campaign said that about 94 percent of 571,000 donors gave those amounts in June, or about $22 million.

But that leaves a little more than 34,000 responsible for the rest of the $83.8 million, the AP found. That's about $2,400 on average per person.

Just as first-class passengers pay the bulk of an airline flight's costs, wealthy donors to Romney and Obama often make the difference for campaigns. Even for Obama, who harnessed the power of small, grassroots donations to help clinch the presidency four years ago, more than two-thirds of his supporters gave $200 or more.

Detroit mom questions how daughter shot during hug

DETROIT (AP)—The mother of a Detroit woman shot and killed while dancing with an off-duty police officer questioned Monday why he would carry a loaded gun at a party in his own backyard.

Police said Adaisha Miller was dancing with the officer early Sunday morning when she hugged him from behind. His gun, which was in a waist holster, went off, and the bullet punctured Miller's lung and hit her heart. She died at a hospital.

Detroit Police Chief Ralph Godbee described Miller's death during a Monday news conference as a tragic, "unfathomable" accident.

"Somehow, in the course of dancing with the individual to his rear and touching his waist, his Detroit Police Department-issued weapon discharged, striking Ms. Miller," Godbee said. "There is absolutely no indication that the officer placed his hand on his weapon at all."

Godbee implied contact from Miller appeared to have caused the gun to go off, but he stopped short of saying she pulled the trigger on the .40-caliber handgun.

The officer, 38-year-old Isaac Parrish, has been placed on desk duty while the case is investigated. There was no answer at his home early Monday afternoon. Godbee said Parrish is "very remorseful."

Miller was celebrating the weekend before her 25th birthday on Monday, said her mother, Yolanda McNair. She was invited to the Saturday night fish fry at Parrish's home by friends who knew him, McNair said.

"Why do you need a gun at your own house? Why do you need a gun at your own party?" she asked. McNair said she would be watching the police investigation closely.

Detroit police officers have the option of carrying their weapons while off-duty. The model issued by the department has a safety mechanism built into the trigger.

The Smith & Wesson M&P primarily was designed for police and military use. It does not have a safety switch, but the trigger has to be pulled back completely for the gun to fire, certified firearms instructor Rick Ector said.

Ector said that if properly holstered, the gun cannot be fired accidentally.

Parents of drowned toddler accused of endangerment

ST. LOUIS (AP)—The parents of an Illinois toddler who drowned in a lake were charged with child endangerment Monday, accused of allowing the boy and his twin brother to routinely wander from home through a basement window and having them live in what one prosecutor called "filth and squalor."

The charges come more than two months after 2-year-old Lukas Pinski was found unresponsive and submerged May 2 in a small lake near the family's Edwardsville home in southwestern Illinois. Authorities say he and his twin had wandered from home.

Lukas died four days later at a St. Louis hospital. His brother escaped with minor cuts.

Thomas Pinski, 26, who's charged along with 25-year-old wife Emilie Pinski, told The Associated Press he was unaware of the charges until a reporter called his home Monday to ask about them. He said they disagree with the allegations and plan to fight them.

"I haven't talked to my lawyer about this," Pinski said. He quickly ended the phone conversation after the reporter asked for the attorney's name.

Madison County State's Attorney Tom Gibbons said an investigation showed Lukas knowingly was left unsupervised and managed to climb out of the house through a basement window Gibbons said the toddlers repeatedly exploited for freedom. Gibbons said the parents failed to lock the window or remove a bench that allowed the boys to reach it.

"This was an extremely difficult case," Gibbons said. "But when you know that your children are in danger and there is a strong likelihood that something will happen to them, you have to do everything you can to provide a safe environment for them. This family knew the boys were crawling out of the window and wandering away, yet they did nothing, and that's against the law."

The Pinskis are charged with endangering the life or health of a child, a felony punishable by up to five years in prison. They also face misdemeanor child-endangerment counts— each carrying up to a year in jail—for what Gibbons said was their allowing the twins and three other children to live in "uninhabitable conditions which included piles of human and animal feces, broken glass debris and trash."

"These children lived in filth and squalor," Gibbons said.

The Pinskis' live-in mothers—Shirley Pinski, 47, and Rebecca Kennedy, 61—also face misdemeanor endangerment counts. Online court records do not show whether the two women have attorneys yet.

Gibbons said that since Lukas' death, an investigation of suspected juvenile abuse or neglect at the family's home led child welfare officials to take temporary custody of Lukas' brother and three other children from the house: a 5-year-old boy and two girls, ages 3 and 1.

Asia

Clinton urges free markets with democracy in Asia

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia (AP)—Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton took aim Monday at China's model of economic growth without democracy, arguing that it undermines long-term prospects and urging other Asian countries to expand markets and political freedom at the same time.

Without mentioning Beijing by name, Clinton laid out a week of diplomatic efforts she'll make across Asia to press governments into improving the rule of law and free expression. Speaking at a woman's event in Mongolia, China's northern neighbor, she said limiting freedom "kills innovation and discourages entrepreneurship," and ultimately undermines economic expansion.

"We need to make the 21st century a time in which people across Asia don't only become more wealthy," she said. "They must also become more free."

The message reflects the battle of values between Washington and Beijing as they jostle for strategic and economic advantages across the continent. President Barack Obama has tried to pivot U.S. power to the region, in part to reverse a slide toward China in recent years as its economy boomed and America's struggled.

Clinton, who'll also visit Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia over the next five days, held up Mongolia as a positive example of advancement. Having visited the country once before, as first lady in 1995, she returned to the capital of Ulan Bator via a potholed road undergoing expansion, past billboards advertising Western firms and skyscrapers sprouting up amidst the Soviet-era architectural relics dominating the cityscape.

AP

Mongolian President Elbegdori Tsakhia, center, and Mongolian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Gombojav Zandanshatar, right, listen as U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton delivers the opening remarks to the Community of Democracies Governing Council, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Monday, July 9, 2012 in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

She was formally welcomed below a giant statue of Genghis Khan across the city's communist-era central plaza from a Louis Vuitton shop, further underscoring the old and new Mongolia and reflecting its rapidly expanding wealth.

"My trip reflects a strategic priority of American foreign policy today," Clinton said. "After 10 years in which we focused a great deal of attention on the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, the United States is making substantially increased investments— diplomatic, economic, strategic and otherwise— in this part of the world. It's what we call our pivot toward Asia."

A country more than twice the size of Texas with only 2.7 million people, Mongolia is tapping into its huge deposits of gold, copper, coal and other natural resources. But unlike its neighbors, undemocratic China and increasingly authoritarian Russia, Mongolia's expansion in wealth has been accompanied by greater freedom for its people.

Clinton stressed this point, but her visit also comes as international mining companies scramble for some of the country's mineral wealth. The prize is a share of Tavan Tolgoi, a coal field with estimated reserves of 6.4 billion tons just 200 kilometers from China, the world's biggest consumer of coal. Among the bidders for a strategic stake is Peabody Energy, a St. Louis-based coal mining titan that has lobbied Washington to support its bid.

Mongolia has also contributed to U.S. strategic interests. It has sent troops to Afghanistan and Iraq, and to U.N. peacekeeping operations in Africa, part of a foreign policy designed to carve out protection for itself against Chinese and Russian domination.

Clinton said she remained inspired by Mongolia's transition to democracy in the 1990s and the six successful rounds of parliamentary elections it has held. "Against long odds, surrounded by powerful neighbors who had their own ideas for Mongolia's future, the Mongolian people came together with great courage to transform a one-party communist dictatorship into a pluralistic political system," she said.

Gunmen attack Pakistani army camp, kill 8 people

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Gunmen killed eight people in an attack Monday on a Pakistani army camp in a city where hard-line Islamists stopped on their way to the capital to protest the decision to reopen the NATO supply line to Afghanistan, police said.

Police were searching for the attackers, and it was unclear if any of the Islamist protesters were involved, said Basharat Mahmood, police chief in the eastern city of Gujrat near where the attack occurred.

"It is surely a terrorist attack," said Mahmood.

The gunmen who attacked the camp were riding in a car and on motorcycles. They killed seven soldiers at the camp and a policeman who tried to intercept them, said Mahmood.

The camp near the city of Gujrat was attacked at around 5:20 a.m., a little less than an hour after the leaders of the Difah-e-Pakistan, or Defense of Pakistan, protest movement finished delivering speeches inside the city, said the police.

The group, which includes hard-line Islamist politicians and religious leaders, left the city of Lahore on Sunday. They traveled about halfway, spent the night in Gujrat and reached Islamabad late Monday where they staged a rally on the main avenue running through the city toward the parliament.

Police estimated the crowd at 30,000 to 40,000 people. Among the speakers was Hafiz Saeed, who heads what is widely believed to be a front for a militant group that is blamed for the attacks in the Indian city of Mumbai in 2008 that killed more than 160 people.

The U.S. had a $10 million bounty on Saeed, but he operates freely in the country. Pakistan says it doesn't have enough evidence to arrest Saeed, but many suspect the government is reluctant to move against him and other militant leaders because they have longstanding ties with the country's military and intelligence service.

During his speech, Saeed said if the NATO supply routes remain open the U.S. will use it as an opportunity to intervene in the region.

The Pakistani Taliban took responsibility for the attack on the soldiers. A Taliban spokesman, Ahsanullah Ahsan, made the claim to The Associated Press by telephone from an undisclosed location.

The Pakistani Taliban is an umbrella organization created to represent roughly 40 insurgent groups in the tribal belt plus al-Qaida-linked groups headquartered in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province.

Filipino rebels say talks at 'make or break' stage

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The leader of the largest Muslim rebel group in the southern Philippines said Monday that yearslong talks with the government have reached a "make or break" stage. Al Haj Murad Ibrahim expressed hope a peace accord could be reached but warned the guerrillas are ready to return to war if the negotiations fail.

Murad said his group, the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and government negotiators will tackle difficult issues, including wealth and power-sharing and the size of an autonomous Muslim region, in the next round of talks brokered by Malaysia later this month. He spoke to reporters after the rebels held a four-day gathering of thousands of fighters and supporters to discuss the talks in their main stronghold in southern Maguindanao province.

Murad said the talks "have hardly moved" in two years of negotiations under President Benigno Aquino III. But he acknowledged that both sides made progress in April when they agreed on principles and a framework for the talks.

"Virtually, the status is 'make or break,'" he said. "Anything can still happen any moment."

While Murad expressed hope that a peace accord could be forged, he said the guerrillas are ready to take up arms again if the talks go nowhere.

Government negotiators have been more optimistic, expressing hope that a peace accord could be signed as early as this year. A cease-fire watched by a Malaysia-led contingent has drastically reduced bloody clashes and fostered the negotiations, they said.

Guerrillas have waged a bloody insurgency for self-rule since the 1970s in the southern Mindanao region, homeland of minority Muslims in the predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines. Murad's group has dropped their demand for independence but is seeking establishment of a "Bangsamoro state" with broad powers under the central government in Manila.

The Supreme Court rejected a preliminary peace pact in 2008 that sought to expand an existing Muslim autonomous region, ruling that it was unconstitutional. The rejection prompted three rebel commanders to launch attacks on Christian communities in the south, sparking a major military offensive and displacing large numbers of people.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Dalai Lama: I must be neutral about immolations

NEW DELHI (AP)—The Dalai Lama said in an interview published Monday that it is best for him to remain neutral about the wave of immolations by Tibetans in China protesting Beijing's repressive policies and calling for his return from exile. The Dalai Lama described the immolations as a "very, very delicate political issue," and expressed his reluctance to comment on the deaths of Tibetan protesters in China. The Tibetan spiritual leader spoke of the dilemma he faces in speaking about the immolations in an interview published in The Hindu newspaper.

Daughter of late SKorean leader eyes presidency

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The eldest daughter of a late military-backed South Korean president has declared her presidential bid by promising to try to promote peace with rival North Korea. A former leader of the conservative ruling Saenuri Party, Park Geun-hye is the front-runner in opinion surveys ahead of December's presidential elections. Her father Park Chung-hee ruled South Korea for 18 years with an iron-fist until he was assassinated by his intelligence chief in 1979. But his supporters respect the elder Park for leading South Korea's meteoric economic rise from the ashes of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Singapore to end mandatory death for drug couriers

SINGAPORE (AP)—Singapore says it plans to change the law so that convicted drug couriers no longer receive a mandatory death sentence. Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean said in parliament Monday that the government will seek to give judges the discretion to give life sentences to drug couriers if they cooperate with authorities in a substantive way or are mentally disabled. Teo said Singapore would keep the mandatory death penalty by hanging for drug kingpins or distributors.

Top crime suspect, 10 others flee Philippine jail

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine police say 11 detainees including the leader of a notorious bandit group have escaped from a jail by cutting through iron grills with a smuggled hacksaw. The fugitives include Datukan Samad, a high-profile suspect facing kidnapping and murder charges in the southern Philippines. He has been linked to Muslim rebels. Samad was transferred to the Maguindanao Provincial Jail in Cotabato city following a failed attempt to spring him from another jail in February that left three people dead, including a Red Cross driver.

World

New crisis looms in Egypt over legislature's fate

CAIRO (AP)—A new showdown loomed in Egypt on Monday as the country's highest court stood by its ruling that dissolved parliament last month, challenging the new Islamist president's plans to reconvene the lower chamber in defiance of the military.

If he goes ahead, Mohammed Morsi would be taking a dramatic step away from the outreach that characterized his first days in office. It's a tough fight, though, and the president could lose it along with more of his already diminished powers.

The military, which handed power to Morsi on June 30 after ruling the country for 16 months, delivered a thinly-veiled warning to the president, saying it would continue to support the country's "legitimacy, constitution and law"—language that means it will not stand by and watch the rulings of the country's top court ignored or breached.

AP

Workers clean inside the Egyptian parliament in Cairo, Monday, July 9, 2012. The speaker of Egypt's Islamist-dominated parliament called Monday for the legislature to meet this week, raising the stakes in a tense standoff with the powerful military which backed a court ruling to dissolve the chamber.

At the same time, the Supreme Constitutional Court sent out a clear signal that it will not bow to Morsi's wish, saying in a statement after an emergency meeting on Monday that its June 14 ruling to invalidate the Islamist-dominated parliament was final and binding.

"Morsi's move sets the stage for a potentially very serious political and constitutional crisis," said Michael W. Hanna, an expert on Egypt from the New York-based Century Foundation.

Morsi, through his spokesman Yasser Ali, insisted his decision to reconvene the 508-seat chamber on Tuesday was an "assertion of the popular will."

His presidential decree also calls for new parliamentary elections after a new constitution is adopted, something that is not expected before the end of the year—in effect according legitimacy to a legislature the country's highest court ruled to be invalid.

In its ruling last month, the supreme court determined that a third of parliament's members were illegally elected under a law that allowed candidates from political parties to compete for seats that had been set aside for independents. Based on that verdict, the then-ruling military disbanded the house, in which Islamists controlled more than 70 percent of the seats.

In the days that followed, the generals pushed through a series of decrees that gave themselves legislative powers, as well as control over the drafting of a new constitution and the national budget. It also stripped Morsi of significant presidential powers.

The high court was to rule Tuesday—the same day parliament was set to reconvene—on three cases questioning the legality of the president's order.

The dispute over the fate of parliament has divided the nation just as Egyptians were looking forward to a semblance of stability after the tumult of the 17 months since the ouster of longtime authoritarian ruler Hosni Mubarak. Egypt has seen a dramatic surge in crime, deadly street protests, a faltering economy and seemingly non-stop strikes, sit-ins and demonstrations.

Flooding exposes deep distrust of Russia's leaders

KRYMSK, Russia (AP)—The floods that washed through southern Russia and killed 171 people followed storms that dumped five months of rain in a matter of hours. Still, President Vladimir Putin has spent three days trying to persuade residents that the flooding was an act of nature and not the result of government negligence or worse.

Some persist in believing, against all evidence, that the city of Krymsk and its 57,000 people were intentionally sacrificed to prevent the flood waters from damaging Novorossiysk, a major Black Sea port essential for exporting Russian oil and grain.

This deep distrust of the government poses a challenge to Putin, who depends on the support of ordinary Russians across the country to counter the growing challenge in Moscow to his 12-year rule.

At the very least, the flooding has Russians once again questioning the government's ability to keep them safe. Still fresh in their memory are a string of disasters— from the bungled response to the sinking of the Kursk submarine in 2000, to the wildfires that swept seemingly unopposed through a swath of western Russia in 2010, to the capsizing of an overloaded river boat that killed more than 120 people last year.

The Emergencies Ministry acknowledged Monday that it had failed to warn residents about the flash flood that turned Krymsk streets into swirling muddy rivers and filled one-story homes practically up to the ceiling in the middle of the night. Many of the 171 who died were elderly residents unable to escape in time.

A total of 29,000 people in Krymsk and the seaside resort town Gelendzhik lost all of their possessions, while about 300 homes in Krymsk and 100 in Gelendzhik were damaged beyond repair, according to government figures released Monday.

After torrential rains dropped up to 300 milliliters (12 inches) of water late Friday and early Saturday, the flooding inundated Krymsk so quickly that that residents said they suspected that water had been intentionally released from a reservoir in the mountains above the city to prevent the dam from being breached.

The suspicion was that this had been done to protect the Novorossiysk port, which is part-owned by the government and Transneft, the state monopoly that runs the oil pipeline system. The reservoir lies in mountains situated between Novorossiysk and Krymsk. It was unclear whether the port was in any danger.

The government denied the sluices had been opened and, in an effort to convince the skeptics, the Krasnodar region governor arranged for a group of residents to fly over the reservoir in a helicopter. He even arranged a second flight over a wider area after they complained that they had not seen enough the first time. Two members of the group were shown on television saying they were now convinced that the reservoir had not been the source of the flooding.

This was the same conclusion reached by a well-known local environmentalist, Suren Gazaryan, who has opposed the governor on other issues. Gazaryan studied the area around the reservoir and the high-water marks along a network of mountain streams, posting the photographs and his conclusions on his blog.

Still, prominent Moscow journalist Oleg Kashin, who was in Krymsk, said on Kommersant FM radio that none of the residents he had spoken to believed it was the weather alone that caused the flooding.

WORLD BRIEFS

UK: Cleric appeals to Europe's human rights court

LONDON (AP)—Britain said Monday that radical Muslim preacher Abu Hamza al-Masri has lodged an appeal over his extradition to the United States with the European Court of Human Rights. In April, the Strasbourg, France-based court ruled that the United Kingdom could send Al-Masri—considered one of Britain's most recognizable extremists—to the U.S. to face terrorism charges, saying that Britain would not violate EU human rights rules by extraditing him. Al-Masri could face a life sentence in the U.S. in a maximum-security prison. But in the latest twist in the long-running legal battle, Britain's Home Office on Monday confirmed Al-Masri's appeal to the court. The Home office said it had welcomed the court's original judgment, but noted it will not become final until any appeal is decided.

First witness testifies in Mladic trial

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—It's been 20 years since Elvedin Pasic's father was captured by Serb fighters in the Bosnian war. But as the 34-year-old Bosnian Muslim became the first witness at the U.N. trial of Ratko Mladic on Monday, he repeatedly broke down in tears as he recalled the trauma of separation. During the emotional testimony, the former Bosnian Serb military chief sat stone-faced in court looking straight ahead. He faces 11 charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes for allegedly masterminding Serb atrocities throughout the 1992-95 Bosnian war that left 100,000 people dead.

UN envoy seeks Iranian help on Syrian crisis

BEIRUT (AP)—International envoy Kofi Annan tried to rescue his peace plan for Syria by seeking help Monday from Iran, a staunch ally and military backer of President Bashar Assad's regime.

Before flying to Tehran, Annan said he had agreed on a new approach with Assad to stop the violence, which activists say has killed more than 17,000 people since the conflict began in March 2011.

Annan did not spell out the agreement or say what kind of involvement he saw for Iran in resolving the crisis. Anti-regime fighters dismissed any role for Iran in a plan they and some experts say has little hope of succeeding.

"Kofi thinks you can't have a political transition and solution without the Iranians on board, but this is still part of the understanding that Assad and the regime will be part of the solution—an idea many of us have given up on," said Salman Shaikh, director of the Brookings Doha Center and an analyst on regional politics.

The United States has rejected Iranian participation in international meetings on the crisis in Syria.

Annan, the joint envoy for Syria from the U.N. and the Arab League, presented a peace plan earlier this year, but it has been deeply troubled from the start.

Government forces and rebels have widely disregarded a cease-fire that was to begin in April, and spreading violence has kept nearly 300 U.N. observers monitoring the truce stuck in their hotels in Syria.

After a two-hour meeting with Assad on Monday, Annan said the men had agreed on "an approach" to stop the violence, and that the diplomat would share it with the armed opposition.

"I also stressed the importance of moving ahead with a political dialogue which the president accepts," Annan said.

Annan then flew to Tehran to seek help from Iranian officials. Iran's semiofficial Fars news agency said he would meet with Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi and top security official Saeed Jalili.

Focus

Indian state's grip on rare lions may be too tight

By KATY DAIGLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

In this Sunday, March 25, 2012 photo, a lioness licks her cub at the Gir Sanctuary in the western Indian state of Gujarat, India.

GIR SANCTUARY, India (AP)—A peacock shrieks. A monkey scrambles higher into the fire-colored canopy of a kesudo tree. And an Asiatic lion—one of the last few hundred in the wild—pads across the dusty earth of a west Indian sanctuary that is its only refuge from the modern world.

Within the guarded confines of this dry forest in Gujarat state, the lions have been rescued from near-extinction. A century ago, fewer than 50 remained. Today more than 400 fill the park and sometimes wander into surrounding villages and farmland.

But the lions' precarious return is in jeopardy. Experts warn their growing numbers could be their undoing. Crowded together, they are more vulnerable to disease and natural disaster. There is little new territory for young males to claim, increasing chances for inbreeding, territorial conflict or males killing the young.

Conservationists agree these lions need a second home fast, and far from Gir. Government-backed experts in the 1990s settled on a rugged and hilly sanctuary called Kuno, where lions historically roamed with tigers in the neighboring state of Madhya Pradesh. Millions were spent preparing the park. But Gujarat rejected the plan. And no lions were sent. Now, the uncertain fate of the Asiatic lions—once dominant in forests from Morocco and Greece across the Middle East to eastern India—rests in the hands of bureaucrats, and the case has reached the Supreme Court.

"We are the only ones who have lions. We have managed without interference until now," Gujarat's environment secretary, S.K. Nanda, said proudly from behind an enormous desk in an office complex decorated with lion posters reading: "Gujarat's pride; World's envy."

"Can we humans be arbiters of where these lions should live? Should we move the mountains and the rivers, too?" Nanda said. "If the lions want to move, let them move on their own."

The subject of saving lions is an emotional one in India. The lion also holds iconic status in religions and cultures. The multi-armed Hindu warrior goddess Durga is traditionally shown with a lion as her mount. Four lions make the national emblem—symbolizing power, courage, pride and confidence. Even the common Sikh name "Singh," shared by the current prime minister, means "lion" in several languages.

The Asiatic lions, a subspecies, are nearly as large as their African cousins, though the males' manes are less fluffy and their tails have larger tufts.

By the 20th century, they had nearly been wiped out by trophy hunters. The last Asiatic lion outside Gujarat was gunned down in Iran in 1942.

Within India, hundreds of thousands of lions, tigers, leopards and wolves were killed over decades of frenzied hunting, encouraged by British colonials. Three years after independence, the country's Asiatic cheetahs were extinct.

But the lions in Gujarat got a reprieve. A princely ruler banned hunting of the few dozen lions left in 1901.

The state created Gir Sanctuary over more than 1,400 square kilometers (540 square miles), relocating all but a few hundred buffalo herdsmen who lived peaceably with the predators, mainly by giving them wide berth.

The sanctuary became a model in conservation, with constant patrols against poachers and cultivated grasslands for the lions' prey: spotted deer and blue-hued antelope. A veterinary hospital was built. The lions thrived.

Tourists from India's newly minted middle class now flock to the park, riding open-topped jeeps to see lions lazing under trees or teaching their butterfly-chasing young to stalk small prey.

A few dozen trackers keep count of the animals and fill artificial water holes.

"Not everyone gets a job like this," said Raju Vajadiya, idly swinging a stick, the only defense he and his colleagues usually have or need. "It is a godly thing to give a lion water on a hot day."

Protecting the lions has been popular with locals, who consider the predators docile when not harassed. Farmers welcome them in their fields. Newly married couples visit them for good luck. Families break park rules to picnic by Gir's streams, unaware or unconcerned that they are water sources for the big cats.

"The lion is like a god to us," peanut farmer Sadik Hasein Chotiyara said. "If the lion attacks, it's because that person made a mistake."

At the same time, locals in general are more open to sharing the lions with other states than Gujarat's leaders are.

Gujarat officials insist lion attacks on humans don't happen. Nonsense, say scientists and residents.

Research indicates confrontations are increasing, as the growing cat population has pushed one in four lions into new mini-sanctuaries they get to by riverbeds that snake through farms and villages.

Droughts that kill prey can make matters worse. After a drought in the 1980s, there were 120 lion confrontations in 1989-91 killing 21 people—five taken as lion food, said biologist Ravi Chellam.

Most of the estimated 15 lion attacks each year happen outside the park, where people are less lion-savvy, scientists say. In April, a lion killed a 35-year-old man who was reportedly pelting it with stones.

Gujarat's conservation laurels now teeter on its next move. Experts say Gujarati officials can best show their devotion to the lions by letting some go. The lions urgently need a second sanctuary, they say—one outside Gujarat to ensure genetic diversification and protection from disease or natural disaster.

Evidence suggests the gene pool is dangerously shallow, meaning a disease that affects one Gir lion could quickly affect many. Tanzania's Serengeti National Park saw a third of its 3,000 lions wiped out in 1994 by canine distemper, likely brought by tourists' dogs. Decades earlier, Tanzania's Ngorogoro Crater lions were decimated when rains spawned swarms of blood-sucking flies that left the cats with festering sores.

But Gujarat denies any need to move lions from the state. It dismisses the idea that disease or calamity could pose a threat.

To give the lions more space, Gujarat recently opened a small second sanctuary on its coast. Conservationists say the two populations are still too close together.

To address gene pool concerns, Gujarat is breeding them in a zoo, but conservationists say it's ridiculous to think those could be a substitute for lions raised in the wild.

"From a scientific perspective, this is the worst thing they could do. If they really cared about the species' survival, they would want this second home," said conservation biologist William Laurance, of Australia's James Cook University.

The central government and Madhya Pradesh state have already prepared the second lion home in Kuno, relocating villages and hiring specialists to build up a prey base for the cats. In 2006, an ecologist on the project filed a lawsuit challenging how such a plan could be enacted but no lions ever sent.

The Supreme Court is now deliberating on the messy dispute and could—if it wants—resolve it within weeks.

"India risks becoming a champion of extinction," said Faiyaz Khusdar, the ecologist who filed the lawsuit. "People would never forgive us if we lose these beautiful cats."

Gujarat also doubts that other states will keep lions safe. And here, they echo global concern.

Environmentalists increasingly question India's commitment to its endangered wildlife, including half the world's remaining tigers, its only black tigers, and more than half the world's Asiatic elephants and one-horned rhinoceroses.

As the country heaves with 1.2 billion people, it has quickly industrialized its countryside, destroying most of its forests along with wetlands and mangrove stands.

More than 40 animal and plant species have gone extinct in a half-century and 134 more are critically endangered. Poaching and poisoning are rampant, despite a 1972 law criminalizing such killings. A recent study in the journal Biological Conservation counted 114 species being poached, including elephants and rhinos for their tusks, and tigers for body parts used in Chinese medicine.

Many sanctuaries have been powerless to stop the killings. There are not enough rangers, and some may take bribes. Some exasperated states like Maharashtra and Assam have told rangers they can shoot poachers on sight.

While Gujarat's lions have been spared the worst, they still face the same threats. The International Union for Conservation of Nature changed their status to "endangered" from "critically endangered" based on their numbers in 2008, but noted they were still falling to hunters and poison traps and drowning in village wells.

Statistics are difficult to find, but a reported 34 of Gujarat's lions were poached in 2007. Another 10 were hunted in 2009 by criminals who passed the cat bones off as tiger parts. Tigers also came under attack that year, disappearing from two sanctuaries in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

"They are not able to conserve their own wildlife. How can they protect ours?" said R.L. Meena, a Gujarat district wildlife warden.

He insisted the state would defy any court order not in its favor. "They will not take our lions."

Conservationists say dangers outside Gujarat are an argument for better wildlife protection nationwide, but not an excuse for resisting the Kuno lion home in Madhya Pradesh.

"Gujarat is fiercely proud of the lions, and rightfully so," said biologist Luke Hunter of Panthera conservation group based in New York. "You would think they'd want to take the next logical step in conservation and establish other populations."

Some accuse Gujarat of using its hold on the lions as a tourism draw. Gujarat fires the same allegation at states willing to take lions in.

The central government supports moving lions to Kuno, but notes that Indian wildlife laws leave decisions to the 28 states. "We will not interfere," environment secretary Tishya Chatterjee said.

But New Delhi has intervened to protect wildlife before. It launched a nationwide tiger-protection project in the 1970s. In a situation similar to the lions, it ordered the northeastern state of Assam to contribute rhinos for a second population to boost that gene pool in faraway Uttar Pradesh state.

Environmentalists say the need for the central government to protect species is not declining but rising as India's population and economy soar.

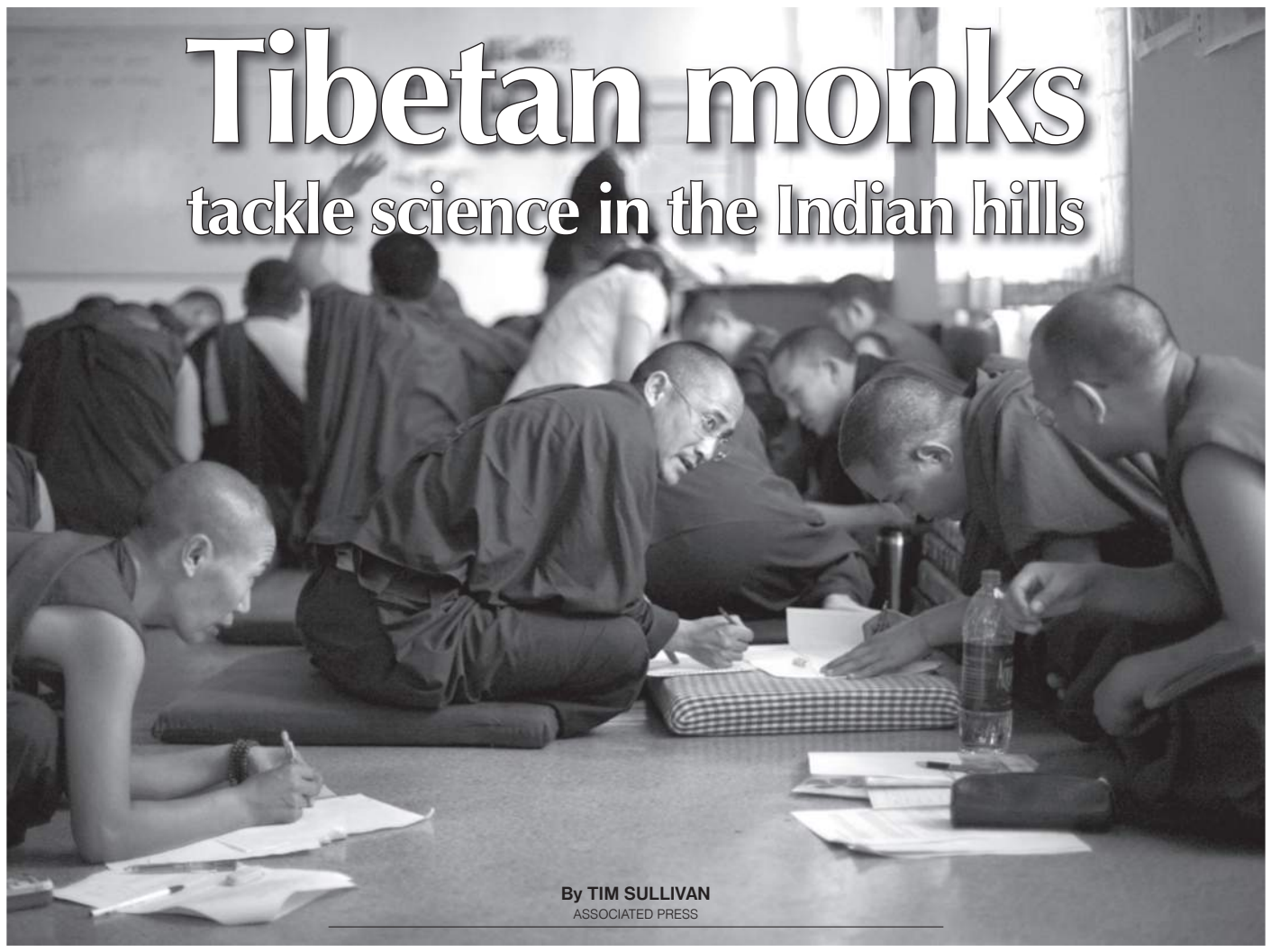
"Conservation in India is not about managing animals anymore," said Divyabhanusinh Chavda of the World Wildlife Fund in India.

"It's about managing people."

Campus Life

Tibetan monks tackle science in the Indian hills

By TIM SULLIVAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS



AP

In this June 7, 2012 photo, Tibetan Buddhist monks and nuns work to solve a mathematical problem during their class at an educational complex in Sarah, India.

SARAH, India (AP)—The shouts of more than a dozen Tibetan monks echo through the small classroom. Fingers are pointed. Voices collide. When an important point is made, the men smack their hands together and stomp the floor, their robes billowing around them.

It's the way Tibetan Buddhist scholars have traded ideas for centuries. Among them, the debate-as-shouting match is a discipline and a joy.

But this is something different.

Evolutionary theory is mentioned—loudly. One monk invokes Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle. Another shouts about the subatomic nature of neutrinos.

In an educational complex perched on the edge of a small river valley, in a place where the Himalayan foothills descend into the Indian plains, a group of about 65 Tibetan monks and nuns are working with American scientists to tie their ancient culture to the modern world.

"I'd like to go back to my monastery ... to pass on my knowledge to other monks so that they might bring the (scientific) process to others," said Tenzin Choegyal, a 29-year-old monk born in exile in India.

If that seems a modest goal, it reflects an immense change in Tibetan culture, where change has traditionally come at a glacial pace.

Isolated for centuries atop the high Himalayan plateau, and refusing entry to nearly all outsiders, Tibet long saw little of value in modernity.

Education was almost completely limited to monastic schools. Magic and mysticism were—and are—important parts of life to many people. New technologies were something to be feared: Eyeglasses were largely forbidden until well into the 20th century.

No longer. Pushed by the Dalai Lama, a fierce proponent of modern schooling, a series of programs were created in exile to teach scientific education to monks, the traditional core of Tibetan culture.

At the forefront is an intensive summer program, stretched over five years, that brings professors from Emory University in Atlanta. For six days a week, six hours a day, the professors teach everything from basic math to advanced neuroscience.

"The Buddhist religion has a deep concept of the mind that goes back thousands of years," said Larry Young, an Emory psychiatry professor and prominent neuroscientist. "Now they're learning something different about the mind: the mind-body interface, how the brain controls the body."

But why are Tibetans now embracing modernity?

Many of the roots can be traced to 1959, when Chinese soldiers invaded Tibet amid an aborted uprising. The Dalai Lama and thousands of his followers fled across the Himalayas and into India, creating an exile community that now numbers an estimated 150,000 people around the world.

Beijing says Tibet is an integral part of China. And while the Dalai Lama insists he only wants autonomy for his homeland, Beijing disparages him as a quasi-terrorist intent on wresting control away from China.

The Tibetan culture, meanwhile, is increasingly imperiled. Ethnic Han Chinese, encouraged by generous government subsidies, now outnumber Tibetans in much of Tibet. The traditional Tibetan herding culture is dying out as people move to cities. Many young Tibetans now speak a tangle of Chinese and Tibetan.

The shifting cultural landscape has torn at Tibet, sparking violent uprisings every decade or so. In the most recent wave, some three dozen people have burned themselves alive over the past year in ethnic Tibetan areas of China, protesting Beijing's policies.

Amid such tumult, the Dalai Lama—a man raised to live in regal isolation as a near-deity—has instead spent much of his life seeking ways that Tibetans can hold onto their traditions even as they find their way in the modern world.

He has encouraged modern schooling for exile children, and a democratic system to choose the Tibetan political leader (he renounced his political powers in 2011). There are job programs for the armies of unemployed young people.

And, for a few dozen monks and nuns, there is science.

The first group from the Emory program—26 monks and two nuns—have just finished their five years of summer classes. While they earned no degrees, they are expected to help introduce a science curriculum into the monastic academies, and will take with them Tibetan-language science textbooks the program has developed.

The Dalai Lama realizes that "preservation of the culture will occur through change," said Carol Worthman, a professor of anthropology in Emory's Laboratory for Comparative Human Biology. "You have to change to stay in place."

But change is a complicated thing. Particularly with a culture like this one.

The monks and nuns in the Emory program are "the best and the brightest," Worthman said, brought to the Sarah complex from monasteries and convents across India and Nepal. While most are in their 20s or 30s, some are far older and long ago earned high-level degrees in Buddhist philosophy.

Still, few learned anything but basic math before the Emory program. Because of the way they study—focusing on debates and the memorization of long written passages, but doing comparatively little writing—few are able to take notes during classroom lectures. Many were raised to see magic as an integral part of the world around them.

To watch them in class, though, is astonishing.

No one yawns. No one dozes. Since almost no one takes notes, it's easy to think they're not paying attention.

But then a monk or a nun in a red robe calls out a question about brain chemistry—or cell biology, or logic—that can leave their teachers stunned.

Though most studied only religious subjects after eighth grade, they regularly traverse highly complex concepts: "They really understand how neurocircuits work at a level that's comparable to what we see at a senior (undergraduate) neuroscience classroom in the United States," said Young, the neuroscientist.

For most of the monastics, though, the challenges are not in the academic rigor. They see nothing astonishing about their ability to process vast amounts of information without taking notes, or to remain attentive for hours on end. It is how they have been trained.

For them, the challenges lie in weaving modern science with traditional beliefs.

The science program "was sort of like a culture shock for me," said Choegyal, who is based at a monastery in southern India. While Tibetan Buddhism puts a high value on skepticism, conclusions are reached through philosophical analysis—not through clinical research and reams of scientific data.

So it was difficult, at first, for many of the students. And the questions ranged across science and philosophy: Are bacteria sentient beings? How does science know that brain chemistry affects emotions? Are Tibetan beliefs in mysticism provable through science?

At times, the program can seem incongruous, given the widespread belief in magic. Such beliefs go all the way to the top: The Dalai Lama still consults the official state oracle, a monk who divines the future from a temple complex not far from here.

But after five years, Choegyal says he has managed to hold onto his core beliefs while delving deeply into science.

"Buddhism basically talks about truth, or reality, and science really supports that," he said. Questions that science cannot address, like the belief in reincarnation, he brushes aside as "subtle issues."

Instead, he mostly finds echoes across the two cultures.

He points to karma, the ancient Buddhist belief in a cycle of cause and effect, and how it plays into reincarnation. Then he points to the similarities with evolutionary theory.

"Everything evolves, or it changes," he said, whether in evolution or in reincarnation. "So it's pretty similar, except some sort of reasoning."

Some states tie reading tests to grade promotion

By JESSICA TULLY
USA TODAY

Fourth grade is when young people stop learning to read and start reading to learn, says Marcus Winters, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research.

Even so, because less attention is placed on developing reading skills past the third grade, Winters said, students who have not mastered the skill by then struggle to keep up and fall further behind each year.

To address that issue, Ohio and North Carolina passed legislation in the past month requiring third-graders to pass a reading test before advancing to fourth grade. They join four other states—Arizona, Indiana, Oklahoma and Florida—with similar policies, said Jaryn Emhof of the Foundation for Excellence in Education. Emhof said more states, including Mississippi and New Mexico, are considering similar laws.

The policy has critics, including psychologist Sylvia Rimm, who says she believes third grade is too late to hold students back. She says if a problem is noticed, a child should should be held back earlier, when they are less likely to experience emotional pain for repeating a year.

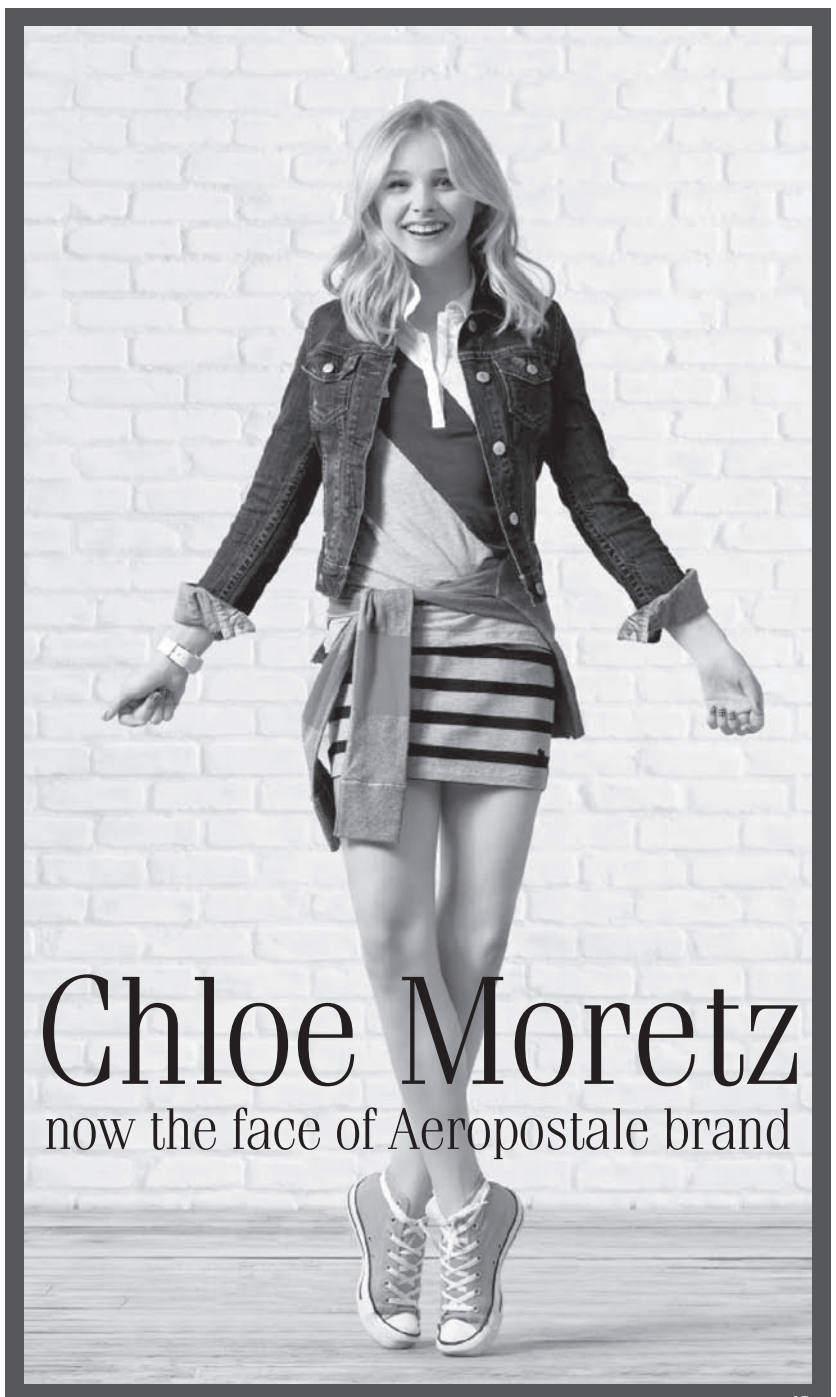
"If they are held back and are not carefully guided through the process, they could feel like dummies and think there is no use in trying," said Rimm, author of the book Why Bright Kids Get Poor Grades.

Winters has studied the performance of students who just barely passed the test and those who just barely didn't in Florida, the first state to require test-based promotion in 2002. In the short and long term, the students held back did better academically than those who were moved ahead, said Winter, who published his findings in April.

Florida's policy stipulates that third-grade students must score at or above Level 2, the second lowest of five levels, on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test to be promoted. Those who demonstrate the required reading level through a portfolio can be granted an exemption. Some districts allow students to be reassessed after a summer reading camp, said Pam Stewart, chancellor of the Florida Department of Education's Division of Public Affairs.

Karen Tegeler, a Des Moines parent, said her son, a fifth-grader with a visual impairment, would have been retained under the policy. She said that would not have been good for him socially or academically. "Holding a kid back because they struggle in one area, but

Life&Style



AP

This image provided by Aeropostale shows actress Chloe Moretz wearing fashions from Aeropostale.

NEW YORK (AP)—At age 15, actress Chloe Grace Moretz is already an ambassador.

It's for Aeropostale, the youthful fashion brand, and it's a job that's likely to come with some clout and influence—especially with teenage shoppers.

Moretz's new gig was to be announced later Monday. She will be featured in advertisements through next spring, largely wearing clothing she's selected and styled herself. She will also curate collections in-store and online.

"I get my own section, I got to pull my own clothes. Girls can go and see what I love and what I wear in the shoots. It's a way for me to be in touch with girls," Moretz said in a recent phone interview.

Moretz starred in "Hugo" and "The Amityville Horror" and has the title role in the upcoming remake of the horror classic "Carrie."

The young actress said she sees a shift in her fan base since her Aeropostale ad campaign began appearing in magazines a few weeks ago. She noted her screen roles until now have been in films that typically attract adults. "I was in the airport a few days ago and these girls were reading their Teen Vogues, and then the girls came up to me!"

She describes her own style as fun, flirty and colorful, and she lives in skinny jeans cuffed at the ankle when she's not working. Most of her style cues come from her mother, but she greatly admires the look cultivated by Michelle Pfeiffer, her co-star in "Dark Shadows."

"She has the coolest clothes," Moretz gushed.

Moretz says she hasn't regretted one fashion choice she's made yet, whether it's for the first day of school or a celebrity-filled red carpet. "Fashion is another way to hone your artistic ability and to express your personality."

(Her favorite back-to-school outfit was in early grade school, she recalls, when she wore a blue dress covered with yellow elephants.)

Choosing Moretz for the brand was ultimately an easy decision, but not one that company officials took lightly, said Scott Birnbaum, senior vice president of Aeropostale marketing and e-commerce. The brand did its homework, seeking input from magazine editors, photographers and other industry insiders.

"When we met Chloe, it was really an instant love affair," he said. "She has such great style, she can mix it up. She wears great high-end designers and everyday stuff."

"We think she's a role model," he adds. "She's quirky and actually really funny, and those are things our brand stands for."

Cruise, Holmes reach settlement in divorce case

NEW YORK (AP)—Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes reached a settlement on Monday, legally sorting out their divorce with the same speed that kicked off their much-scrutinized romance seven years ago.

Just as Hollywood was settling in for what was expected to be a long and nasty separation, lawyers for the couple said the pair settled less than two weeks after Holmes unexpectedly filed for divorce.

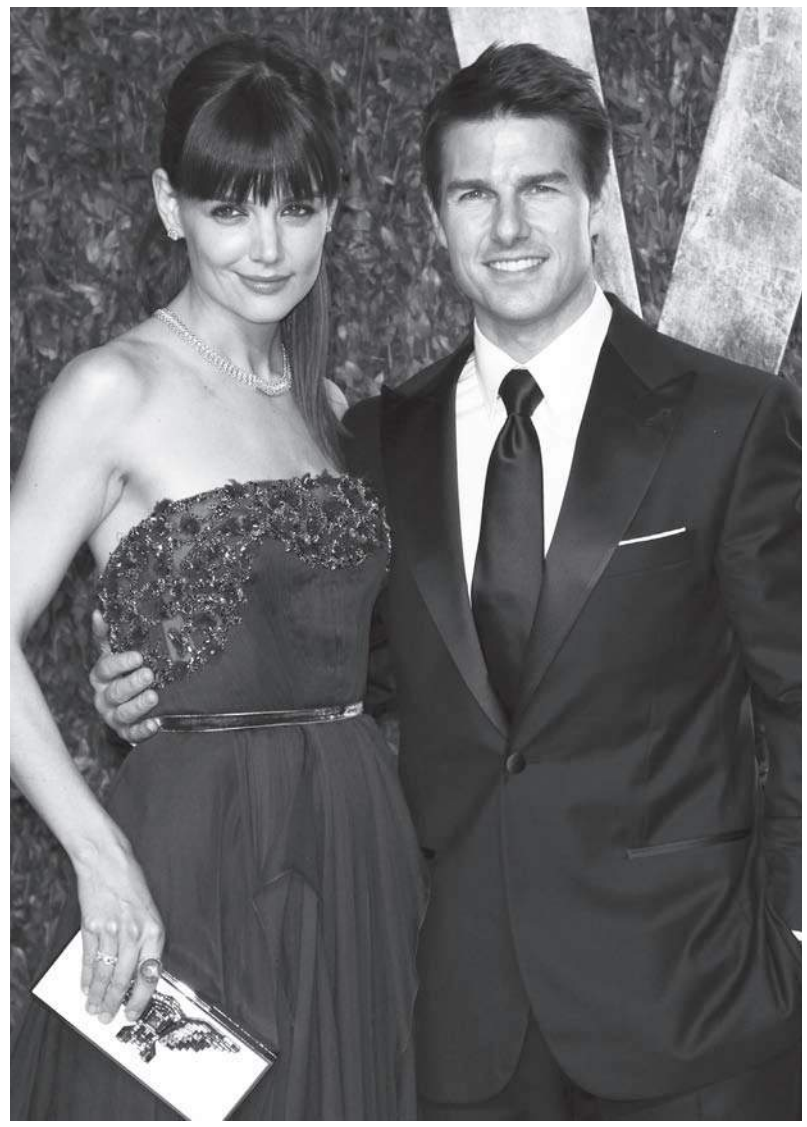
"The case has been settled and the agreement has been signed," Holmes attorney Jonathan Wolfe said in a statement. Cruise's attorney, Bert Fields, also confirmed the settlement in a statement: "Tom is really pleased we got there and so am I."

Representatives for Holmes and Cruse declined to elaborate on the agreement. Wolfe said in a later statement that terms of the settlement were confidential and will not be disclosed.

"We are thrilled for Katie and her family and are excited to watch as she embarks on the next chapter of her life," the statement from Holmes' attorney said. "We thank Tom's counsel for their professionalism and diligence that helped bring about this speedy resolution."

In a joint statement, Cruise, 50, and Holmes, 33, asked for privacy for their family with 6-year-old daughter Suri.

"We are committed to working together as parents to accomplish what is in our daughter Suri's best interests. We want to keep matters affecting our family private and express our respect for each other's commitment to each of our respective beliefs and support each other's roles as parents," read the statement from Cruise's publicist Amanda Lundberg and Holmes representative Nanci Ryder.



AP

In this Feb. 26, 2012 file photo, actors Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes arrive at the Vanity Fair Oscar party, in West Hollywood, Calif.

The resolution was notably quick, particularly in Hollywood terms. By way of comparison, Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries are still negotiating a divorce for an August 2011 marriage that lasted less than three months.

"A quick settlement indicates that they were able to agree that they'll both do some co-parenting," said Steve Mindel, a managing partner in the Los Angeles firm Feinberg, Mindel, Brandt and Klein who has handled bi-coastal divorce cases.

Mindel said the next step would be for Holmes or Cruise to file to have their status changed to divorced, but that the actual financial and child custody details won't get filed in court unless there's some later dispute.

The rapid settlement saves the couple from a public battle that was sure to be covered vigorously by the celebrity news media, which had already shifted into hyper-drive.

In the already voluminous tabloid reporting, Holmes had been portrayed with overwhelmingly more sympathy. The emerging narrative, whether true or not, was of a locked-away Holmes breaking free from the servitude of a strange, corrupting marriage.

Us Weekly reported that the couple "fought viciously" over Scientology parenting. The Daily News trumpeted Holmes entering "a new phase." A TMZ headline blared "Tom treated me like a robot."

That may also be the most convenient view of a relationship that even at its start spawned "Free Katie!" T-shirts. In 2005, the couple publically announced their relationship in Rome, famously celebrated it on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and got engaged on the Eiffel Tower in Paris. They were wed in Nov. 2006 at a castle in Bracciano, Italy.

Fields has said they were letting "the other side play the media until they wear everyone out." The Church of Scientology, too, didn't want to be portrayed as the schism between the couple.

The quick settlement and joint statement may put out some of that fire.

"I don't think either of these high-profile celebrities want their dirty laundry aired in technically a public forum," said Russell I. Marnell, an East Meadow, N.Y.-based divorce lawyer who's also licensed in California. "Those kind of factors certainly would lend themselves to try to encourage a resolution."

Cruise has two children with his previous wife, Nicole Kidman. The actor was also previously married to Mimi Rogers. This was Holmes' first marriage.

Their divorce case lasted less than two weeks, but Mindel said that's not uncommon for high-profile breakups: "There's too many incentives on both sides of the equation for settlement."

When actress-singer LeAnn Rimes' husband filed for divorce in December 2009, it only took a day before the couple filed a judgment. Actor-comedian Russell Brand's divorce from singer Katy Perry took a little over a month to resolve, while director Cameron Crowe and singer-guitarist Nancy Wilson resolved their 2010 divorce in less than three months.

Cruise and Holmes may have saved more than just their dignity by not fighting out their divorce in court. A drawn-out custody battle would have likely cost more than a million dollars in legal fees.

"What jumps out at me is how quickly they were able to resolve a multi-million dollar (financial case) and custody issues," likely to be particularly complicated for a couple whose work can take them all over the world, said Paul Talbert, a partner in a New York City matrimonial-law firm that isn't involved in the case.

Said Mindel: "The question's going to be did they have enough time to flesh out how they're going to resolve future disputes."

Nolan says no to 'Justice League' superhero film

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

AP

Christopher Nolan, director of the upcoming film "The Dark Knight Rises," holds up his hands after putting them in cement during a ceremony for him at Grauman's Chinese Theatre on Saturday, July 7, 2012, in Los Angeles. Looking on from left are cast members Anne Hathaway, Michael Caine and Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP)—Now that Christopher Nolan is done with his epic Batman trilogy, the filmmaker has quashed speculation that he might be involved in a "Justice League" movie featuring the Dark Knight.

Writer-director Nolan said his take on Batman wraps up with "The Dark Knight Rises," his third and final film centered on the DC Comics superhero. In an interview over the weekend to promote the finale, Nolan said he has no "Justice League" plans.

"No, none at all," Nolan said. "We're finished with all we're doing with Batman. This is the end of our take on this character."

Fans have conjectured that Nolan might return to Batman by producing a big-screen take on "Justice League," DC Comics' "Avengers"-style ensemble whose key superheroes include the Dark Knight, Superman, Wonder Woman and Green Lantern.

Nolan guesses that the "Justice League" rumors started because of his involvement as a producer on next summer's Superman relaunch, "Man of Steel."

He also said he not intend to get involved with any future solo Batman films when distributor Warner Bros., which owns DC Comics, decides the time is right to launch a new take on the masked vigilante.

"Batman will outlive us all, and our interpretation was ours. Obviously, we consider it definitive and kind of finished. The great thing about Batman is he lives on for future generations to reinterpret, and obviously, Warners will have to decide in the future what they're going to do with him," Nolan said. "We've had our say on the character. ...

"I've got no plans to do anything more, and certainly, no involvement with any 'Justice League' project."

After Disney's success with "The Avengers," the big-screen round-up of Marvel Comics superheroes that has pulled in $1.45 billion worldwide, speculation has grown that Warner Bros. would get its own ensemble flick on the drawing board.

Nolan resurrected the Dark Knight with 2005's "Batman Begins" and shattered box-office records with 2008's "The Dark Knight," which won a posthumous Academy Award for Heath Ledger as the Joker.

"The Dark Knight Rises" reunites Nolan with Christian Bale as billionaire Bruce Wayne and his Batman alter-ego; Michael Caine as stalwart butler Alfred; Morgan Freeman as Wayne Enterprises mastermind Lucius Fox; and Gary Oldman as upright Police Commissioner Jim Gordon. Joining the cast are Anne Hathaway as daring thief Selina Kyle, also known as Catwoman, and three of Nolan's "Inception" co-stars: Tom Hardy as brutish villain Bane; Marion Cotillard as Wayne's new business ally, Miranda Tate; and Joseph Gordon-Levitt as gutsy cop John Blake.

The story begins eight years after the action of "The Dark Knight," with Batman vanished from the scene and vilified as an enemy of Gotham City, whose tough anti-crime laws have cleaned up the streets. A limping, emotionally shattered recluse, Bale's Wayne is forced back into action as Bane lays deadly siege to the city.

Archie, pals to find 'Glee' in crossover

By MATT MOORE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The kids from Riverdale are no strangers to high school angst, worries about fitting in or music. Neither are the teens from "Glee."

Now, Archie, Betty, Veronica and resident boy genius Dilton Doiley will match wits—and maybe a vocal or two—with the likes of Finn Hudson, Kurt Hummel and Rachel Berry in the pages of "Archie Comics," said Jon Goldwater, the co-chief executive officer.

Goldwater unveiled the planned collaboration on Monday, ahead of Wednesday's start of Comic-Con in San Diego.

He said the crossover between the Fox show and the comic book is set for late this year or in early 2013, and is being written by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, one of the television show's writers. It features multiple characters from the long-running comic book and the Fox show now in its third year. Dan Parent is illustrating the story.

"I've become friendly with Roberto—he's just a genius writer," said Goldwater, who met the playwright last year at New York Comic Con when he stopped by Archie Comic Publications Inc.'s booth. "He and I were shooting the breeze."

That visit sparked a friendship and, ultimately, the idea for the crossover.

"It turns out he's been a fan of Archie for years. His most recent Halloween costume? He was dressed as Archie!" Goldwater said.

For now, says Goldwater, the plot of the four-issue story arc in "Archie Comics" is a closely-held secret, but it does involve parallel dimensions, dancing and some serious singing, too.

It's also the latest step for the publisher, which has expanded its pop cultural offerings beyond just Jughead, Midge and Mr. Weatherbee.

In the past two years, Archie Comics has brought in an openly-gay character, Kevin Keller; been visited by the band Kiss; and seen Archie marry Valerie, the bassist for Josie and the Pussycats, and have a daughter with her.

"Those have reintroduced a lot of people back to 'Archie,'" Goldwater said. "And it's opened a whole new world of people coming to 'Archie' for the first time, too."

Goldwater said that in the course of his conversation with Aguirre-Sacasa it was evident both "Glee" and "Archie" had some common ground despite coming from decidedly different mediums, including a diverse array of characters, conditions and concerns.

"'Glee' is courageous in their story lines and how they represent their characters, how they represent the high school situation," he said, noting that it's similar in the world of Archie, too.

'Today' show welcomes Savannah Guthrie as host

NEW YORK (AP)—Savannah Guthrie made her official debut as Matt Lauer's co-host on NBC's "Today" show Monday, shaking off nerves and starting the longtime dominant morning show's effort to move past a rough patch in its history.

The 40-year-old Guthrie, NBC's chief legal analyst, said she was honored to have one of those rare jobs "you can describe as fun and actually mean it."

Guthrie

"This was a little unexpected, as we all know, but I just want to say that I'm so proud and honored to be in a place occupied by so many women I admire," Guthrie said. She named all her predecessors from Ann Curry to Jane Pauley. After saying she hoped she didn't miss anyone, Lauer replied that "you'll hear if you did."

Guthrie has co-hosted the four-hour "Today" show's 9 a.m. hour for the past year. But the 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. stretch with Lauer is the main event, where it directly competes with morning news shows on ABC and CBS.

She replaces Ann Curry, who was in the job for a year. A newly aggressive "Good Morning America" on ABC in the spring ended a streak where "Today" won in the ratings for every week back to 1995, and the programs have traded victories ever since. For the last week of June, the shows finished in a dead heat among viewers in Nielsen's measurement. Prestige and a lot of advertising revenue flow from being No. 1.

NBC has said little publicly about Curry's ouster. NBC News President Steve Capus told The Hollywood Reporter that it was obvious that Curry had little sincere interest in the lighter celebrity or cooking segments that are a big part of a morning anchor's job. Curry's passion is international reporting, and she's staying at NBC to lead her own reporting team, he said.

Guthrie received a mild "hazing" from her colleagues Monday, all designed to welcome her as part of the "family" atmosphere that morning television show casts like to project. They pulled out a book she read as a teenager about dreaming to become a cheerleader, and she admitted papering her girlhood walls with Duran Duran posters. They played a clip of NBC anchor Brian Williams misidentifying her as "Samantha."

The montage even showed her picking on a guitar and singing a snippet of Bob Dylan's "You're Gonna Make Me Lonesome When You Go."

Reminding viewers that "Today" is also a news show, NBC's chief White House correspondent Chuck Todd said that Guthrie, who trained and briefly practiced as a lawyer, is "kind of a shark inside."

NBC plainly hopes for a better showing on Guthrie's "official" debut than her unofficial one. Before a vacation, she co-anchored with Lauer on June 29, one day after Curry's tearful exit, and the Nielsen company said "GMA" crushed "Today" in the ratings that day by 670,000 viewers.

'Amazing Spider-Man' finishes weekend with $62M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Amazing Spider-Man" had a slightly slower start at the box office than initially estimated, taking in $62 million domestically over opening weekend.

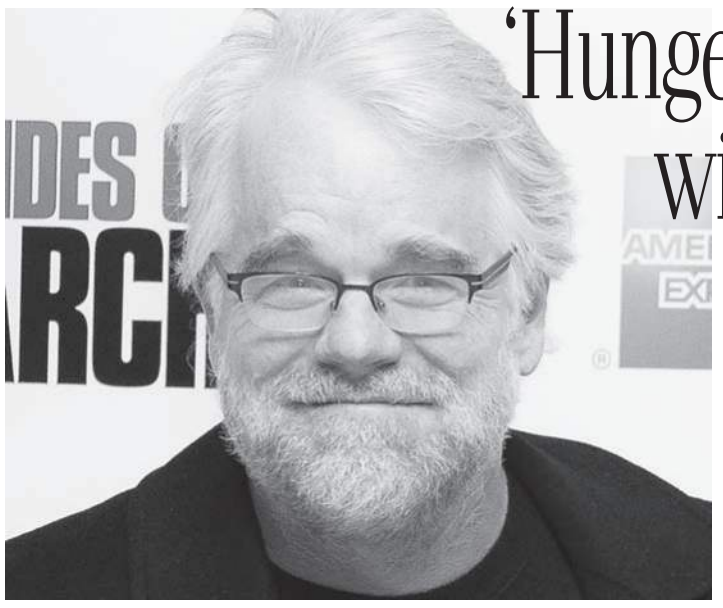
The final numbers Monday came in $3 million lower than the $65 million that distributor Sony had projected a day earlier, but it still was a healthy start for the new take on the Marvel Comics superhero.

Since opening last Tuesday, "The Amazing Spider-Man" has taken in $137 million domestically. Its worldwide total is about $340 million since it began rolling out overseas the previous week.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Hollywood.com are:

1. "**The Amazing Spider Man**," Sony, $62,004,688, 4,318 locations, $14,360 average, $137,022,258, one week.
2. "**Ted,**" Universal, $32,202,395, 3,256 locations, $9,890 average, $119,849,740, two weeks.
3. "**Brave**," Disney, $19,612,370, 3,891 locations, $5,040 average, $173,969,341, three weeks.
4. "**Savages**," Universal, $16,016,910, 2,628 locations, $6,095 average, $16,016,910, one week.
5. "**Magic Mike**," Warner Bros., $15,642,337, 3,120 locations, $5,014 average, $72,829,107, two weeks.
6. "**Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection**," Lionsgate, $10,177,029, 2,161 locations, $4,709 average, $45,822,984, two weeks.
7. "**Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted**," Paramount, $7,520,690, 2,861 locations, $2,629 average, $195,905,126, five weeks.
8. "**Katy Perry: Part of Me**," Paramount, $7,138,266, 2,730 locations, $2,615 average, $10,240,213, one week.
9. "**Moonrise Kingdom**," Focus Features, $4,519,195, 884 locations, $5,112 average, $26,780,989, seven weeks.
10. "**To Rome with Love**," Sony Pictures Classics, $3,104,328, 806 locations, $3,852 average, $4,863,538, three weeks.
11. "**People Like Us**," Disney, $2,194,535, 2,055 locations, $1,068 average, $9,190,902, two weeks.
12. "**The Avengers**," Disney, $2,168,124, 1,125 locations, $1,927 average, $611,127,884, 10 weeks.
13. "**Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter**," Fox, $1,944,534, 1,657 locations, $1,174 average, $34,050,910, three weeks.
14. "**Prometheus**," Fox, $1,815,500, 1,105 locations, $1,643 average, $122,390,274, five weeks.
15. "**Snow White & the Huntsman**," Universal, $1,768,355, 1,152 locations, $1,535 average, $149,756,565, six weeks.
16. "**Men in Black 3**," Sony, $1,680,714, 879 locations, $1,912 average, $173,089,690, seven weeks.
17. "**The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel**," Fox Searchlight, $741,091, 359 locations, $2,064 average, $41,991,873, 10 weeks.
18. "**Rock of Ages**," Warner Bros., $639,406, 701 locations, $912 average, $36,974,619, four weeks.
19. "**That's My Boy**," Sony, $621,656, 400 locations, $1,554 average, $36,100,833, four weeks.
20. "**Bol Bachchan**," FIP, $561,996, 98 locations, $5,735 average, $561,996, one week.

'Hunger Games' adds Oscar winner Hoffman to cast



AP

This Oct. 19, 2011 file photo shows US actor Philip Seymour Hoffman at the official BFI London Film Festival screening of "The Ides of March," in central London.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Hunger Games" has bagged an Academy Award winner.

Philip Seymour Hoffman, who earned the best-actor Oscar for 2005's "Capote," has joined the cast for part two in the futuristic adventure series, "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire."

Lionsgate Films announced Monday that Hoffman will play Plutarch Heavensbee, the new head game-maker overseeing an annual televised fight to the death staged by a repressive government in post-apocalyptic North America.

"Catching Fire" takes place a year after the blockbuster "The Hunger Games," with game survivors Katniss Everdeen, played by Jennifer Lawrence, and Peeta Mellark, played by Josh Hutcherson, hurled into the government's machinations over the 75th annual games.

Based on the middle book of Suzanne Collins' best-selling trilogy, "Catching Fire" hits theaters Nov. 22, 2013.

'Social Network' team to produce 'Fifty Shades'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The producers of "The Social Network" are producing the film adaptation of the best-selling erotic trilogy "Fifty Shades of Grey."

Universal Pictures and Focus Features said in a joint statement Monday that Michael De Luca and Dana Brunetti will reteam for the adaptation of the best-selling novels by E. L. James.

The multimillion-selling books tell the story of an unworldly college student engaging in an unusual romantic relationship with a wealthy young businessman.

'Grey' author James' husband has book deal in US

NEW YORK (AP)—Let "Fifty Shades of Grey" author E.L. James write about sex. Her husband has a thriller for young adults coming out in the U.S. this fall.

Random House Inc. imprint Delacorte Press announced Monday it will release Niall Leonard's "Crusher" on Sept. 11. Last month, Leonard reached an agreement with Random House in the U.K. to publish his book in England, also on Sept. 11.

Leonard is a TV screenwriter whose credits include "Wire in the Blood." His novel is the first of three planned books. It tells of a teen dropout seeking his father's killer.

James has been the world's hottest writer for months. Vintage Books says since the spring her erotic "Fifty Shades" trilogy has sold nearly 20 million copies in the U.S. alone.

They have been called "mommy porn" for their sexual content and large female following.

Kourtney Kardashian delivers baby girl

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kourtney Kardashian has given birth to a girl and she's naming her Penelope.

The reality TV star told E! News that her second child with boyfriend Scott Disick was born early Sunday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces. Her full name is Penelope Scotland Disick.

Kardashian said mother and child were "resting comfortably."

She and Disick have a 2-year-old son named Mason. Both of her pregnancies were highly publicized.

Her sister, Kim, wrote on her website that the family was thrilled to finally meet the newborn. The family appears on "Keeping Up With the Kardashians."

AP

In an April 30, 2012 file photo Kourtney Kardashian attends an E! Network upfront event at Gotham Hall in New York.

Gladwell writing book on underdogs

NEW YORK (AP)—"The Tipping Point" author Malcolm Gladwell will next take on the eternal clash between overdogs and underdogs.

Little Brown and Company announced Monday that Gladwell's "David and Goliath" is scheduled to come out in 2013. The book will examine why underdogs win—whether political revolutionaries or cultural outsiders.

Gladwell has been a staff writer for The New Yorker since 1996. His other books include "Blink," "Outliers" and "What the Dog Saw."

Blake Shelton, left, and Michael Buble on the set of NBC's "The Voice," on Monday, July 9, 2012, in Los Angeles.

AP

Michael Buble joins Blake Shelton's 'Voice' team

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NBC says "The Voice" is teaming a crooner and a country singer for the show's new season.

The network said Monday that Michael Buble will serve as adviser to coach Blake Shelton's team of contestants when the singing contest returns in September.

Buble, who described himself as a "big Blake fan," said he's having a terrific time working with Shelton and his singers. Buble started taping his appearances on "The Voice" Monday in Los Angeles.

NBC has yet to announce advisers for the show's three other coaches, Christina Aguilera, Cee-Lo Green and Adam Levine.

Kelly Clarkson, Jewel and Baby Face were among last season's advisers, guiding contestants in their choice of songs. "The Voice" is back for its third season Sept. 10.

Longtime boyfriend needs a nudge toward the altar

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I have been in an on-again/off-again relationship with a man for 16 years—more on than off. We have two boys together. He recently moved back in, and things are going well.

We're in our 30s, and I'm ready to be more than girlfriend and boyfriend. I'd like to ask this special man in my life to marry me, but I'm not sure if a woman should ever propose marriage to a man. Should I go ahead and do it, or just be patient and hope that one day he will ask me to take the next big step?

LONGING FOR MORE IN TEXAS

DEAR LONGING FOR MORE: By all means, ask him to formalize your relationship. After 16 years and two children, you deserve to know where the relationship is going. And when you do, mention that you'd like him to go to the altar WILLINGLY—before the boys are big enough to hog-tie and drag him there to make an "honest woman" of their mother.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been a vegetarian and anti-fur advocate for many years, and most of my friends and family know it. I feel strongly that wearing fur and leather is cruel and unnecessary, but I don't lecture anyone who doesn't ask my opinion.

What would be the proper response when someone gives me an item with real animal fur or genuine leather? It has happened before, and while I appreciate that someone has bought me a gift, I'm horrified and heartbroken seeing what's inside the box when I open it, and disappointed knowing that the person has contributed to the unkind and atrocious fur industry. I find it difficult to bring myself to say "thank you" for something I find so morally abhorrent.

What is the appropriate response in this situation? Is it acceptable for me to use this as an opportunity to educate the person on the horrors of fur fashions?

VEGGIE IN NEW YORK

DEAR VEGGIE: No, it isn't. Good manners dictate that you graciously thank the giver and then, if you wish, give the gift a respectful, private burial or regift it to a carnivore.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My ex-husband is remarrying. We have always tried to be civil toward each other because of our daughter, who is 16. I try to be the bigger person in dealing with him in order to set a good example for her.

He called her last night after not having called her in several weeks and told her that if she wants to be in his wedding, I (meaning me) should purchase her dress. I thought it was inappropriate for him not only to tell her that, but also to expect me to pay for it.

When I remarried years ago, I never would have dreamed of asking him for money for her attire. My daughter even thinks this is unrealistic.

I usually try to keep things positive when it comes to situations with him, but I don't think I'm giving in on this one. Do you agree?

EX IN ILLINOIS

DEAR EX: You said you try to keep things positive to set a good example for your daughter. While I agree your ex's demand that you pay for the dress is petty (and cheap), be the bigger person one more time and buy it for her if she wishes to participate rather than argue about it. Then cross your fingers and hope it's his last wedding.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

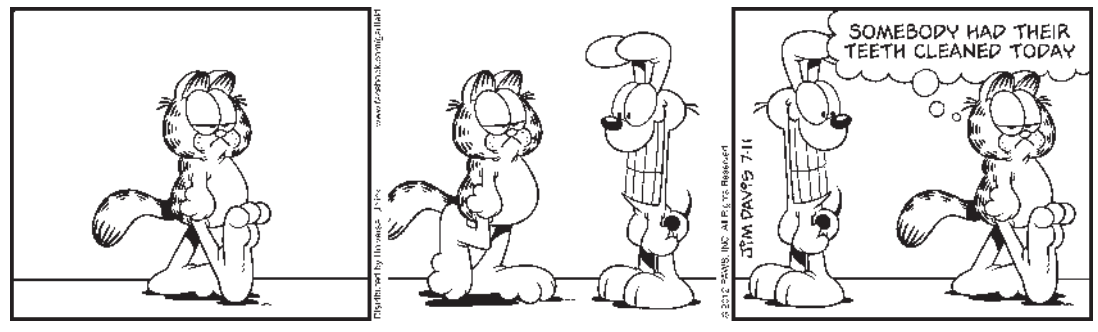
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HI DAD, IT'S ME, CALVIN.
I JUST CALLED TO LET YOU KNOW IT'S A PERFECT DAY OUTSIDE.
TOO BAD YOU'RE TRAPPED IN A BORING OFFICE WHILE I'M RUNNING AROUND FREE WITH NO RESPONSIBILITIES! HAVE A GOOD SUMMER! HA HA HA! *CLICK*
CHILDHOOD IS FOR SPOILING ADULTHOOD.

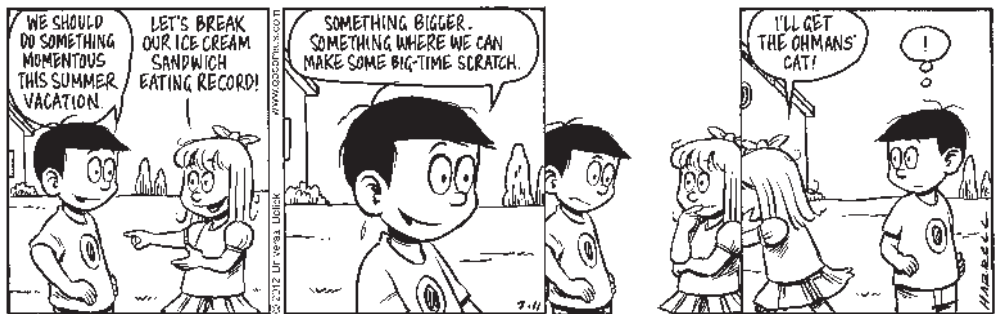
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING MOMENTOUS THIS SUMMER VACATION.
LET'S BREAK OUR ICE CREAM SANDWICH EATING RECORD!
SOMETHING BIGGER. SOMETHING WHERE WE CAN MAKE SOME BIG-TIME SCRATCH.
I'LL GET THE OHMANS' CAT!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Nerd-pack contents
5 Intimidate
8 Mop the decks
12 "I smell —!"
13 Blackbird
14 Designer Rabanne
15 It may rock you to sleep
17 — time (never)
18 Kitchen fixture
19 Hosts
21 World's fair
24 "— the fields we go"
25 Sunrise
28 Lambs' dams
30 Squeezy snake
33 Eggs
34 Shoe strengthener
35 Chances, for short
36 Drench
37 Oil cartel
38 Ancient legend
39 Prior night
41 Siamese
43 This way
46 Seafood selections
50 Missing
51 ABBA hit
54 Create
55 Past
56 Norway's capital
57 Use a teaspoon
58 Sweet potato's kin
59 Reddish steed

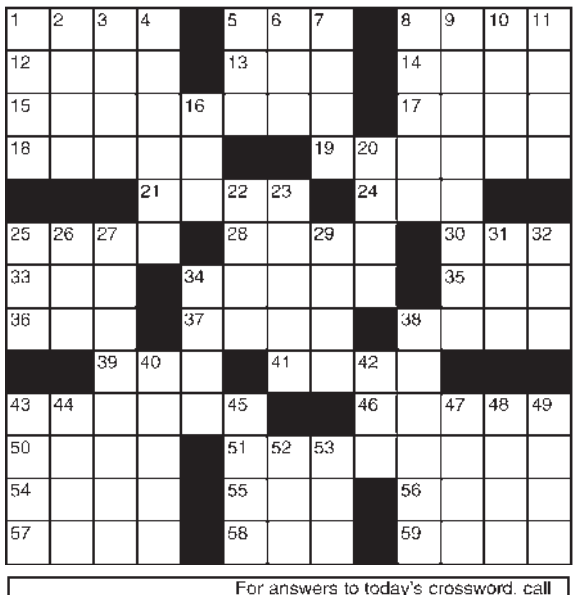
DOWN

1 Feline feet
2 Part of Q.E.D.
3 Peacekeeping org.
4 Spielberg or Soderbergh
5 Taxi
6 Individual
7 Broad
8 Gap
9 Football team's aide
10 Teen's worry
11 Greets the villain
16 Tyrannosaurus —
20 Rolling stone's lack
22 Incubator sound
23 Little hooter
25 Wall Street stat, familiarly
26 "Hail!"
27 Have fun on waves
29 Engrave
31 Choose
32 Fire leftovers
34 Troubles
38 Wicked Queen's advisor?
40 Ballot caster
42 Expert
43 Charitable donations
44 Layer
45 Vacillate
47 As well
48 Gaucho's weapon
49 Any time now
52 — Khan
53 Huck's pal

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	E	E	M	■	O	A	K	■	H	E	R	B
I	D	E	A	■	I	K	E	■	O	L	I	O
C	O	L	D	P	L	A	Y	■	W	A	N	T
■	■	■	C	R	Y	■	B	L	A	N	K	S
R	E	L	A	Y	■	B	O	A	R	■	■	■
A	S	A	P	■	P	L	A	Y	D	E	A	D
I	S	M	■	S	L	E	H	S	■	V	I	I
D	F	A	D	H	F	A	D	■	H	F	N	S
■	■	■	R	A	P	T	■	G	E	N	T	S
V	E	N	O	M	S	■	B	O	P	■	■	■
A	V	O	W	■	H	E	A	D	C	O	L	D
S	E	T	S	■	O	R	B	■	A	R	I	A
T	R	E	Y	■	W	R	Y	■	T	E	E	M

Yesterday's answer 7-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Justin Chambers, 42; Lisa Rinna, 49; Sela Ward, 56; Stephen Lang, 60.

Happy Birthday: Assess your situation and make plans. Do what needs to be done in order to maneuver into a position that leads to better opportunities. Change is never easy, but the chance to get ahead over the next couple of years is dependent on what you do right now. Taking action now will pay off later. Your numbers are 7, 12, 24, 30, 32, 41, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take a walk down memory lane, or reconnect with people from your past and resurrect old goals that were shelved because they were ahead of their time. Let the old meld with the new, and you will capture interest and assistance. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't waste time on negative people. Apply your efforts to getting ahead financially, learning all you can and investing wisely in skills and services you have to offer. Follow a lead from someone you find inspiring, and you will be successful. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't rely on others. Make whatever changes are necessary and keep a fast pace. You have no time to waste if you want a satisfactory outcome. Discipline, knowledge and skill will be easy for you to acquire. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You may be faced with the impossible, but simplicity and moderation will help you reach your goals and impress supportive individuals with something to contribute. Don't cave under pressure. Stick to your schedule and make your dreams come true. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Get involved. Be a participant. What you do for others will bring you rewards in the end. Your ability to diversify and turn whatever you are asked to do into a unique experience for everyone involved will win favors. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Keep your eyes wide open, especially regarding a business deal that has the potential to hurt your reputation or cause a financial loss. Steady, progressive movement and hands-on care will be a must if you want to succeed. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Size up your situation and take note of what's really important to you. Once you can let go of the negative aspects that are holding you back, you will be able to forge ahead. Love and friendship are apparent. Make your partnerships count. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): "Say little, do a lot" should be your motto. Focus on the projects and people who inspire you most, and forget about anything that slows you down or creates a negative attitude. Change will come with a cash injection. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): An investment that involves someone you respect must be considered. A move or lifestyle change will lead to happiness and a lot more to look forward to personally. Romance should be scheduled for the evening hours. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't show your true feelings or share your intentions with people who may not be happy with your choices. Work quietly behind the scenes to get everything in place. Traveling or observing others will help you overcome obstacles. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Stick to the people you know best, and share your thoughts and plans for the future. Love is highlighted, and making home and lifestyle improvements will lead to greater happiness. Make a promise, if it will help you get your way. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Stick close to home to interact with those you can count on. Traveling or dealing with institutions or superiors will not bring favorable results. Go over personal paperwork and revamp your plans before presenting what you have to offer. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You can capture an audience. You are expressive, brave and commanding.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6	7				3	9	
3			6		2			8
			9					2
			8					3
			1					7
		9					5	
	1					4		
6					9			
5	3	8	4		7	2	1	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	3	1	7	4	2	5	6	8
2	7	5	6	9	8	1	4	3
4	6	8	1	3	5	9	7	2
6	2	7	8	5	1	4	3	9
1	9	4	3	6	7	2	8	5
5	8	3	4	2	9	7	1	6
3	4	9	5	1	6	8	2	7
8	5	6	2	7	4	3	9	1
7	1	2	9	8	3	6	5	4

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/11

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

YELLOW ROSES Solution: 7 letters

S	E	G	S	E	T	A	R	O	G	I	V	N	I	L
S	P	D	N	L	G	H	B	O	U	Q	U	E	T	I
Y	U	I	A	I	A	A	G	I	V	E	E	F	R	V
B	H	N	H	H	N	T	S	I	S	T	N	Ⓔ	V	E
S	Y	T	N	S	S	N	E	S	L	I	Ⓥ	E	N	L
B	L	A	A	Y	N	B	I	P	E	Ⓞ	Y	C	I	Y
R	I	O	P	P	L	O	D	G	Ⓛ	M	O	F	N	N
I	M	P	B	O	M	E	I	S	E	U	T	F	P	O
G	A	S	O	M	L	Y	P	T	R	B	A	L	R	I
H	F	M	I	I	Y	O	S	A	A	D	L	O	E	S
T	T	R	V	M	U	S	G	T	G	L	L	W	T	A
N	G	E	E	S	I	E	M	Y	O	O	E	E	T	C
E	R	L	E	S	E	T	S	I	C	R	L	R	Y	C
S	M	R	A	W	H	N	P	A	L	R	E	D	R	O
S	M	O	O	D	S	S	D	O	V	E	C	A	E	P

© 2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 7/11

Apology, Beginning, Bloom, Bouquet, Brightness, Buds, Color, Deliver, Encourage, Envy, Events, Family, Flower, Fresh, Give, Glad, Gold, Happy, Invigorate, Lift, Light, Lively, Love, Message, Mood, Occasion, Optimism, Order, Peace, Petals, Pretty, Relationships, Send, Shade, Shine, Smile, Spouse, Store, Sunny, Sweet, Symbol, Sympathy, Tall, Vase, Warm

Yesterday's Answer: Hoses

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Duplex Apt Capitol Hill

2 br, 1 bth, Fully Furnished
w/ AC, Linens, Pots, Pans, etc.,
very private: 322-2424

Jonny's Corporation
dba Jonny's Bar & Grill

is looking for:

Waitress
22 to 26 years old. Must be a High School Graduate. With Experience. Willing to work late hours.

Cook
With 5 years experience. Willing to work late hours

Please submit resume with a 2"x2" picture to Jonny's Bar & Grill.

Sheu's Brothers Holding Co. LTD
P.O. Box 502997 Saipan, MP 96950
Vacancy Announcement for
US workers'

(1) Sales Representative

2 years experience. Knowledge in Chinese language a plus. Flexible hours. Salary $5.05/hr. Call 235-6128. Email tomastchong@gmail.com or call 888-5748.

Job Vacancy Announcement

ALLIED CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION

(2) Bakers – At least 5 years experience as Baker in a commercial baking industry, capable of high volume standardized bread production. Must have knowledge in HACCP food prep procedures

No phone calls please.
E-mail resume to
psgspn@gmail.com, Re: Catering
Closing Date: July 20, 2012

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Yano Enterprises, Inc.

Restaurant Supervisor (1): Must be qualified in restaurant operations, customer service, menu planning, & reservation operations. Also need to have basic Japanese oral skills. Must have an extensive knowledge of Japanese food products & be able to make orders & preparations.

Restaurant Waitress (2): Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Able to introduce & recommend menu to customer & other duties related.

Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police and court clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to a drug test.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Garapan, Hotel Street.
Please no phone calls.

LCD & Plasma TV Repair
Samsung, Philips, Vizio
Call for more information
233-5641
Open: 7 Day a Week • 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

LOST PASSPORT

Passport No.	G53262068
Name:	Li, Fujin
Date of Birth:	02/14/1958
Date of Issue:	09/07/2011
Date of Expiry:	09/06/2021

Please call if found 233-1006

WHATZIT Solution: The devil in disguise

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
RJ CNMI CORPORATION

(1) MANAGER for Bar/Restaurant
(2) SUPERVISOR for Bar/Restaurant
(1) COOK

Please call Sophie at 287-7617

Job Vacancy Announcement
SAIPAN AUTO CLINIC COMPANY
is looking for
1- Radiator Repairer
Minimum wage. Must have at least 1 year work experience.
Interested Qualified US Workers can fax resume to 235-7742.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) CHINESE INTERPRETER

Submit resume to:
INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE AGENCY
or call tel nos. 234-1942 • 235-5555

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

AutoCad Technician in Saipan or Guam: Part Time Able to work unsupervised. Meet deadlines. Must be able communicate via email.

Housekeeper wanted on Guam: Must provide police and court clearance.

Conduit Installer in Saipan: On-Call. Must provide police and court clearance.

Electronics Technician in Guam and Saipan: Part Time and Full Time. Must show certifications. Must provide police and court clearance.

Yard and Building Groundskeeper in Guam: Part Time 8:00 - 12:00. Must provide police and court clearance.

Please email resume to:
custsvc@cybertecholdings.com
or call 671.735.8911.

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

AC PACIFIC LLC, DBA STAR SANDS

Is an Equal Opportunity Employer

WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING POSITIVE, ENERGETIC AND OUTGOING INDIVIDUALS FOR THE POSITION OF:

1 – ACCOUNTANT – Applicants must have at least 5 years work experience, Must be computer literate, specially the use of accounting software such as QB, ACCUPOS, Must have excellent communication skills (oral and written), Must be able to perform bank reconciliation/Payroll/BGRT tax, Input all excise tax payable and other billing to QB, analyze receiving data from POS to QB, record all vendor invoices to QB on daily basis, review and prepare vendor payment based on due dates, Must be detail and deadline oriented, Partake in physical inventory, Must be able to work on weekends and holidays.

1 – MERCHANDISER – Applicants must have at least 3 years work experience in retail industry. Have great sense of marketing, promotion and advertising techniques. Must be computer literate and must able to read/write and speak English as she/he will order product via phone, emails, fax from off-island and on-island supplier, ability to speak other languages such as Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Russian is a plus but not required, Must be able to work flexible hours, including weekends and holidays.

12 – SALE ASSOCIATES – Applicants must have work experience in retail sales, cash handling and using sales systems. Must have excellent communication skills (orals and written) Must have excellent customer service skills. Ability to speak other languages such as Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Russian is a plus but not required, Must be able to work on weekends and holidays.

1 – GENERAL MAINTENANCE – Applicants must have at least 5 years work experience, Must have excellent communication skills (oral and written) Applicants must have ability to perform multiple task but not limited to plumbing, electrical, carpentry and masonry work and able to work flexible hours including weekends and holidays.

NO PHONE CALL

In order to apply for a job at Star Sands Plaza, Please visit our website http://www.starsandsplaza.com And follow the instruction. If you do not have access to computer/Internet, Employment Applications are available at Star Sands Plaza office.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

disguise

WHATZIT? © 2012 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Source: Rockets deal Camby to Knicks

HOUSTON (AP)—Marcus Camby is returning to New York, while the Houston Rockets continue to reshape their roster.

The 38-year-old Camby agreed Monday to rejoin the Knicks in a deal that sends three players and two second-round draft picks to Houston, according to a person with direct knowledge of the move.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because neither team has announced the trade.

Yahoo Sports reported that Camby's deal was for three years and $13.2 million.

The Rockets will get guard Toney Douglas, centers Josh Harrelson and Jerome Jordan and second-round picks in 2014 and `15.

The 6-foot-11 Camby, meanwhile, will be back in New York where he played from 1998-2002.

Douglas played in 38 games last season, starting only nine, and averaged 6.2 points and 2.0 assists. The 6-10, 275-pound Harrelson was a second-round pick by New Orleans in 2011 and was traded to the Knicks. He appeared in 37 games and averaged 4.4 points and 3.9 rebounds. The 7-foot Jordan, a native of Jamaica, averaged 5 minutes in 21 games last season.

Though Camby has battled injuries during his NBA career, he remains a productive rebounder and shot blocker even after 16 seasons. He also drew interest from Miami and New Jersey but made his destination clear on Twitter, with a simple posting of "NY" on Monday afternoon.

Camby helped the Knicks make a surprising run to the 1999 NBA Finals in his first season in New York. The No. 2 overall pick in the 1996 draft and a native of nearby Connecticut became a fan favorite before the Knicks dealt him Denver in 2002. He should become a valuable backup at center to Tyson Chandler, last season's NBA Defensive Player of the Year.

He becomes the second nearly 40-something to join the Knicks this summer, with Jason Kidd agreeing to go to New York last week. The deals cannot become official until Wednesday.

The Knicks had announced earlier Monday that all three players going to Houston would headline their summer league roster.

Douglas was the Knicks' starter at point guard to begin the season but struggled coming off offseason shoulder surgery. He quickly lost his starting job and eventually fell out of the rotation completely, even after injuries to Jeremy Lin and Baron Davis.

The Knicks and Rockets are also competing for Lin's services. Houston, one of the most active teams in the offseason, got Lin to agree to a four-year deal, but he is a restricted free agent, and the Knicks have three days after Wednesday to match the Rockets' offer.

The pursuit of Lin emerged after unrestricted free agent point guard Goran Dragic went to Phoenix. The Rockets immediately reached out to Lin and traded Kyle Lowry to Toronto.

Houston obtained Camby from Portland at the trading deadline. He averaged 7.1 points and 9.3 rebounds in 19 games. The Rockets traded starting center Samuel Dalembert before last month's draft, among the flurry of moves by general manager Daryl Morey after the team missed the playoffs for the third straight season.

The Rockets collected three first-round picks before the draft and were rumored to be building a package to offer Orlando for All-Star center Dwight Howard. But Houston couldn't pull off a draft-night deal, and the Rockets drafted guard Jeremy Lamb and forwards Royce White and Terrence Jones.

Houston continued to maneuver after the draft, getting Bulls center Omer Asik to agree to a three-year, $25 million deal. The 7-foot Asik is a restricted free agent, giving Chicago three days to match Houston's offer.

Houston withdrew its qualifying offer to guard Courtney Lee, allowing him to become an unrestricted free agent.

AP

In this April 21, 2012, file photo, Houston Rockets' Marcus Camby (29) pulls down a rebound in front of Golden State Warriors' Mickell Gladness (32) during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Houston.

Williams not caught up in Howard trade talk

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Deron Williams and Dwight Howard talked about being NBA teammates four years ago during the Olympics. Now Williams knows there's speculation that it could happen soon.

He's aware of reports that Orlando and Brooklyn and trying to arrange a trade—possibly involving two other teams—but he's not paying too much attention to that.

"There's been a lot of rumors over the last year as far as he's concerned, so early on I concerned myself with it, but lately just let it play out and whatever happens, happens," Williams said Monday at training camp for the latest Olympic team. "I think we'll have a good team without him, I think we'd have an even better team with him."

Howard has asked the Magic to trade him, with the Nets his preferred destination. That goes all the way back to last offseason, and Williams knows it's difficult not only for Howard, but for teammate Brook Lopez, whose name has been linked to all the trade talk.

There were multiple reports Monday that the Nets and Magic were talking with the Clippers and Cavaliers about a deal that would ultimately send Howard to Brooklyn

The Nets have already had a good July, acquiring All-Star guard Joe Johnson from Atlanta and getting Williams to commit to a five-year, $98 million extension, rather than join the Dallas Mavericks. Williams can finally sign the deal late Tuesday night and will be able to fully participate in the U.S. Olympic team's practices Wednesday after sitting out the contact portions for now.

Getting Howard, whom Williams said there is no player like in the NBA, would make them even stronger as they open their first season in Brooklyn.

"I think we'll be good, I think we'll one of the top teams in the East for sure, top teams in the NBA," Williams said, "but it just depends on how everybody jells and comes together as a team."

Williams said he hasn't talked to Howard for a couple of weeks, but knows the situation has been trying for him and hopes to see a resolution soon.

"For him, because I'm friends with him, so I know how tough it's been on him," Williams said. "So yeah, you want to see it end one way or another just so he can be happy and move on."

Wiggins in command on Tour after time-trial win

BESANCON, France (AP)—If Monday's time trial at the Tour de France was "the test of truth"—as one top rider called it—then Bradley Wiggins aced it.

The Olympic champion, aiming to be the first British winner of cycling's showcase race, sped to victory in the first big time trial, tightening his grip on the yellow jersey.

"That was my physical best out there," he said. "It's probably my best time trial ever."

The race against the clock is a discipline Wiggins loves. And it showed in the ninth stage, a 25.8-mile ride from Arc-et-Senans to Besancon. He finished 35 seconds ahead of Sky teammate Christopher Froome, the runner-up.

Defending champion Cadel Evans of Australia, seen as Wiggins' most formidable rival, was a disappointing sixth. He called Wiggins and Froome "very, very, very strong riders."

A day earlier, Evans was all too aware of the stakes in the time trial: "Tomorrow is the test of truth. It's each with their own two legs," he said.

Evans was 1:43 behind. He remains second overall, trailing Wiggins by 1:53. Froome rose to third, from sixth, and is 2:07 behind his teammate.

"I was really motivated—the time trial is my thing," Wiggins said, adding he had worked hard on his riding position, breathing and study of the course. "I am very happy now."

Overall, Italy's Vincenzo Nibali is fourth, 2:23 behind. Russia's Denis Menchov is fifth, 3:02 back, and Spain's Haimar Zubeldia is sixth, 3:19 off the pace.

Wiggins has been the favorite since a dazzling stretch of three stage-race victories this season. At the Tour, he was fourth in 2009 and 24th in 2010, just behind Lance Armstrong, riding in his final Tour. He crashed out last year.

As this 99th Tour continues, Sky is likely to shelter Wiggins in the flats and escort him up Alps and Pyrenees climbs by pressing the pace with him in their draft, trying to wear out rivals.

Then it will be up to Wiggins to deliver solo again in the next-to-last stage—an even longer, 33-mile time trial from Bonneval to Chartres before an often-celebratory ride to the Champs-Elysees finish.

Wiggins insists the three-week race is far from over, saying a crash or illness could douse his victory hopes. He also noted that Evans has promised to fight to the finish.

"It's never over until the fat lady sings, and she hasn't entered the building yet," Wiggins said.

But the stage raises questions about whether Evans—or anyone else—can challenge Wiggins and his team, which has shown strength in both the climbs and time trials that often determine the Tour winner.

For the Australian, it will mean trying to attack on the climbs. Two uphill finishes remain, one each in the Alps—on Thursday—and the Pyrenees next week.

For Wiggins, the task may be psychological: Holding the yellow jersey for nearly two weeks comes with mental strain, for the rider and his teammates.

If Wiggins goes the rest of the way in yellow, it would mark the first time only two riders had worn the leader's jersey in a Tour since Armstrong took it from Estonia's Jaan Kirsipuu en route to winning the first of his seven titles in 1999.

Wiggins, who has the support of Froome in his title quest, entered the stage looking to move up in the overall standings, a stage victory not his top priority.

"My goal was to get a minute on Cadel. ... I've come away with a bit more than that, it's a bonus," Wiggins said. "Winning the stage is like Christmas—it's brilliant."

Riders set off one by one down the starter's ramp for the time trial. By the first time check, just more than 10 miles, Evans was more than a minute slower than Wiggins, but was able to limit the damage.

On one of the warmest days so far this Tour, many riders crossed the finish with white spittle ringing their lips, a sign of dehydration. Unlike usual road stages, time trials require solo efforts, placing additional importance on form, concentration and rhythm.

Evans was "a little bit disappointed," but insisted the Tour wasn't over. "I rode not my best time trial, but certainly not a bad one," he said.

Evans acknowledges he faces a bigger hurdle than he did last year, when he overcame a 57-second deficit to Andy Schleck in the final time trial a day before the finish. The Tour "hasn't been optimal" so far, he said, and he is "not in the best position to be in compared to last year."

Meanwhile, confidence was rising at Sky. Team sports director Sean Yates said Wiggins "took quite a chunk off Cadel."

"It's not going to be easy for Cadel," Yates added, saying the possibilities of the Australian regaining time are "relatively limited ... but we all know he'll keep fighting. He's an ex-world champion. ... There will never be a lack of respect."

Tejay Van Garderen, a BMC teammate of Evans, surprised even himself with a fourth-place finish, 1:06 behind Wiggins. Van Garderen rose to eighth overall, from 17th, and is 5:14 behind Wiggins.

The 24-year American was nine seconds slower than third-place Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland, one of the world's top time trial riders. The Swiss star won the opening-day time trial and wore the yellow shirt for seven days until Wiggins captured it Saturday.

Cancellara fell out of the running for the yellow shirt Sunday, finishing nearly 12 minutes behind Wiggins. He's not as strong a climber as Wiggins, Evans or Nibali.

After 10 straight days of racing, the pack of 178 riders gets its first rest day Tuesday. The field then faces two hard days in the Alps, including a summit finish Thursday that is likely to shake up the standings on the way to the July 22 finish in Paris.

Prince Fielder wins Home Run Derby for 2nd time

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Prince Fielder made a splash at the All-Star Home Run Derby. Eight of them.

The Detroit slugger joined Ken Griffey Jr. as the only players to win multiple titles, thrilling the crowd at Kauffman Stadium with several shots into the right-field fountain and beating Toronto's Jose Bautista 12-7 in the final Monday night.

"Just being mentioned with him is real special," said Fielder, who spent time at Griffey's house when he was a kid. "My dad would let me go over and play video games all day. He always took care of me when I was a kid."

On a night when the Yankees' Robinson Cano was repeatedly booed and went homerless, Fielder put on the most powerful display among baseball's big boppers. Winner at St. Louis' Busch Stadium three years ago, Fielder had a total of 28 home runs over three rounds to cap the main event on the eve of the All-Star game. He hit the four longest drives of the night, including a pair at 476 feet.

"They were far," he said. "That's not easy to hit it out there."

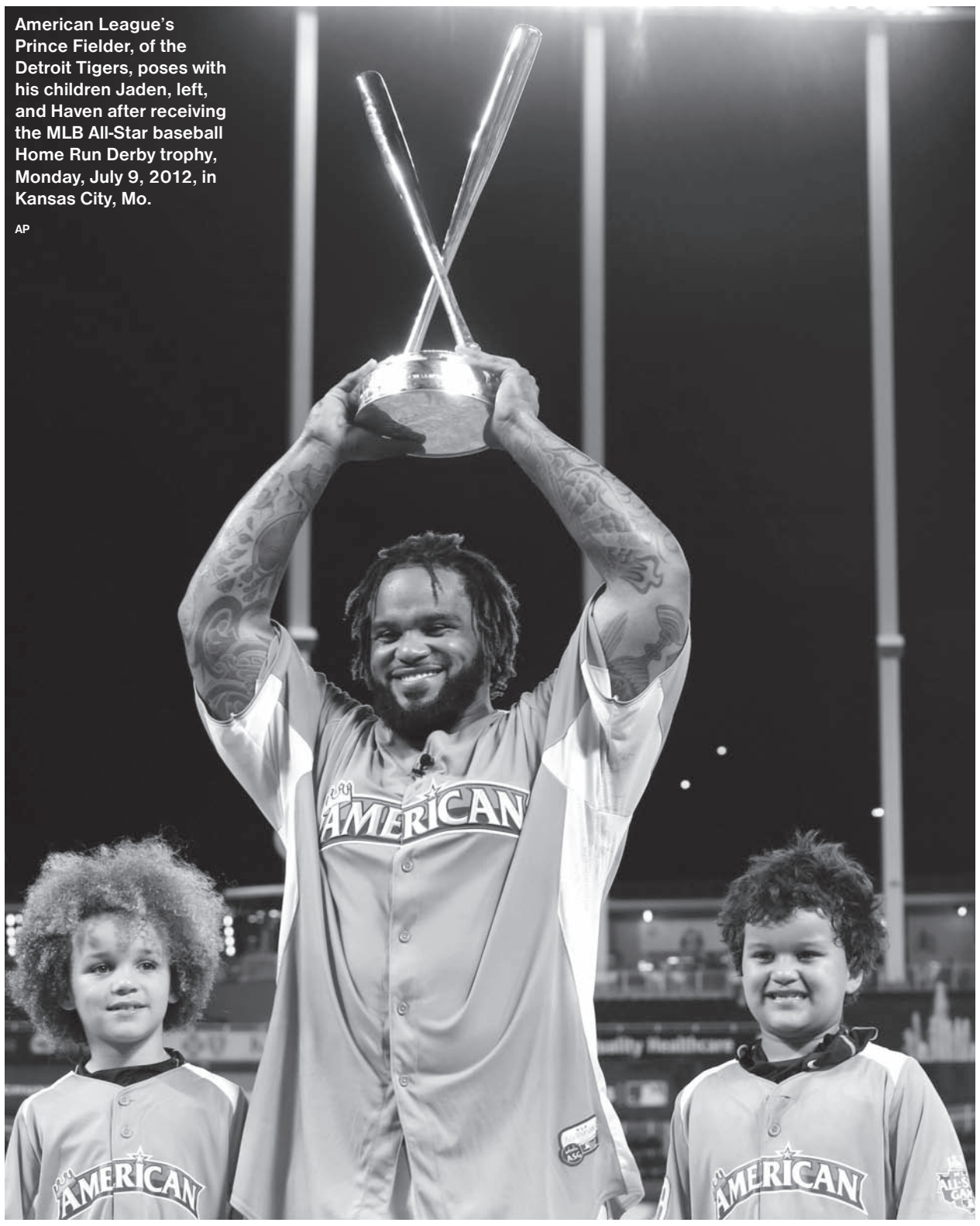
While the ball stayed out of McCovey Cove during the 2007 Derby at San Francisco's AT&T Park and the right-field swimming pool last year at Chase Field in Phoenix, there was plenty of aquatic activity in Kansas City, second only to Rome for most fountains in cities around the world.

After three splash shots among his five homers in the first round, Fielder started off the second round as the setting sun lit up clouds in a pretty pink behind the left-field wall. His mop of dreadlocks visible as he hit without a helmet, Fielder deposited four more balls into the 322-foot-wide water spectacular, which by then was illuminated in the twilight.

He added another water drive in the final round, then leaned against one of his sons while he watched Bautista swing.

"I'm a little disappointed," Bautista said. "I'm capable of doing more. I had a lot of fun doing it."

When he won three years ago in St. Louis, Fielder's 23 homers included a 503-foot drive that disappeared between two sections of bleachers in right-center. Griffey won titles in 1994 at Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Stadium, 1998 at Denver's Coors Field and 1999 at Boston's Fenway Park.



American League's Prince Fielder, of the Detroit Tigers, poses with his children Jaden, left, and Haven after receiving the MLB All-Star baseball Home Run Derby trophy, Monday, July 9, 2012, in Kansas City, Mo.

AP

Cano set a final-round record of 12 en route to last year's title in Phoenix, where he hit 32 overall. This year he was the object of loud booing throughout by fans upset he didn't select the Royals' Billy Butler after promising to take a hometown player for his derby team.

Fans chanted "Bil-ly Butler!" in between their boos. When it was over, Cano got hugs from Boston's David Ortiz and Yankees teammates Curtis Granderson and CC Sabathia.

"I was criticized before I got here. If you play for the Yankees you get booed everywhere you go," Cano said.

It was the 17th time a player went homerless in the Derby, the first since Detroit's Brandon Inge in 2009.

"that was the most interesting reaction to a home rum derby i've ever seen, but the fans were excited which is all that counts," Granderson tweeted.

Carlos Gonzalez and Andrew McCutchen (four each) and Matt Kemp (one) also were dropped after the first round.

Carlos Beltran (12) was dropped after the second round, when Mark Trumbo and Bautista were tied with 13 apiece, leading to a swingoff won by Bautista 2-1.

Trumbo and Bautista each managed to put a drive into the small fountain beyond the left-field wall. Trumbo also hit a pair of shots over the Royals Hall of Fame in left, toward Interstate 70.

Bypassed for Cain, Dickey had hoped to start

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Owner of the best record in baseball, R.A. Dickey was hoping to become the first knuckleballer to start an All-Star game since Dutch Leonard in 1943.

A 12-1 record wasn't good enough. Tony La Russa picked San Francisco's Matt Cain to start for the National League on Tuesday night.

"I'm not going to break down in tears over it, but at the same time I'm a competitor. I want to pitch. I want to start," Dickey said Monday. "I feel like I had a good enough first half that I should be considered. But I'm not the boss. I don't necessarily have to agree with him, but I have to respect it. That's just the way it is."

Detroit's Justin Verlander will start for the American League as the All-Stars return to Kansas City for the first time since 1973.

La Russa, who retired after leading the St. Louis Cardinals to last year's World Series title, made the decision after consulting with his longtime pitching coach, Dave Duncan. Cain had the advantage of pitching a perfect game against Houston on June 13.

"We wanted to reward Matt Cain for a career of excellence that's getting better and better," La Russa said. "And he had a great example of that during the summer on one of his pitching days."

Cain also will be pitching to his regular catcher, Buster Posey. La Russa said Dickey likely will enter the game sometime in the first five innings, around the time Philadelphia's Carlos Ruiz replaces Posey behind the plate.

Dickey hopes he wasn't denied the start just because he throws knuckleballs.

"You're talking about the best players in the world, and you're asking about a pitch that's too nasty to handle?" Dickey said. "I hope that's not it. If that's the reason, that's a poor reason."

Cain is 9-3 with a 2.62 ERA. Dickey, a first-time All-Star at age 37, became the first major leaguer in 24 years to throw consecutive one-hitters.

"We have guys the last couple of years, whether it's spring training or even during the season, I don't play against Dickey," La Russa said. "He can spook you."

Verlander, 9-5 with a 2.58 ERA, is the first All-Star starter who has won Rookie of the Year, Cy Young and MVP.

"Obviously right now, I'm pretty excited about it," he said. "Actually sitting here just looking over the lineup thinking about how I'm going to pitch these guys."

The AL's batting order has Derek Jeter leading off and playing shortstop, followed by Yankees teammate Robinson Cano at second base, Texas left fielder Josh Hamilton, Toronto right fielder Jose Bautista, Detroit first baseman Prince Fielder, Texas third baseman Adrian Beltre, Boston designated hitter David Ortiz, Texas catcher Mike Napoli and Yankees center fielder Curtis Granderson.

The NL has Colorado's Carlos Gonzalez leading off as the DH, followed by San Francisco center fielder Melky Cabrera, Milwaukee left fielder Ryan Braun, Cincinnati first baseman Joey Votto, St. Louis right fielder Carlos Beltran, Posey, Giants third baseman Pedro Sandoval, Atlanta second baseman Dan Uggla and St. Louis shortstop Rafael Furcal.

Braun, who finished fourth in NL outfielder voting, takes the place of the Dodgers' Matt Kemp, on the disabled list because of a strained left hamstring.

For La Russa, the game marks a full circle. He made his major league debut as a player with the Kansas City Athletics in 1963, when they played downtown at Municipal Stadium.

"To think the last time I'm going to put on a uniform is going to be in Kansas City is just an unbelievable coincidence to believe," he said.

Source: Yankees tell Reggie to steer clear

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Yankees have told Mr. October to stay away this summer.

The Yankees want Reggie Jackson to steer clear of the clubhouse and team events following his pointed remarks about Alex Rodriguez and several former stars, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on Monday.

The Hall of Famer will lay low for several weeks, the person told the AP on condition of anonymity because there was no formal announcement. Jackson was not disciplined or fined, and will remain as a special adviser to the Yankees.

ESPN initially reported Jackson would be indefinitely absent from the Yankees.

Jackson recently was quoted by Sports Illustrated as saying some of Rodriguez's statistics were tainted because the Yankees slugger had admitted using performance-enhancing drugs. Jackson has spoken to Rodriguez since then to explain his comments.

Jackson also said he didn't see Gary Carter, Kirby Puckett and others as Hall of Famers.

The MVP of the 1977 World Series with the Yankees was told not to travel to Boston last weekend for New York's four-game series at Fenway Park to avoid becoming a distraction. The Yankees will contact Jackson when they want him back on the scene, the person said.

Jackson was on the field in Kansas City on Monday night for the All-Star Home Run Derby and waved to the crowd. He did not hold an interview session.

Jackson told SI that A-Rod was a friend, adding: "But I think there are real questions about his numbers. As much as I like him, what he admitted about his usage does cloud some of his records."

The former star also said there were several players that he didn't view as worthy of Cooperstown.

"I didn't see Kirby Puckett as a Hall of Famer. I didn't see Gary Carter as a Hall of Famer. I didn't see Don Sutton as a Hall of Famer. I didn't see Phil Niekro as a Hall of Famer. As much as I like Jim Rice, I'm not so sure he's a Hall of Famer," Jackson was quoted by SI.

Carter died in February and several former players have criticized the timing of Jackson's remarks. The person indicated Jackson was reaching out to the families of Carter and Puckett, as well as the Hall of Famers he mentioned.

Donaire unifies super bantam titles

By MARC ANTHONY REYES
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BOXING

CARSON, California— As darkness fell on their outdoor battlefield, Nonito Donaire Jr. chased after Jeffrey Mathebula like a hungry predator looking for a quick kill.

He ended up running after his elusive, wounded prey until the final bell.

With everybody expecting a knockout win, Donaire had to settle for a unanimous decision over the tall South African on Saturday night (Sunday morning in Manila), unifying the World Boxing Organization (WBO) super bantamweight title that he already owns and Mathebula's International Boxing Federation (IBF) crown.

"One more belt and I'm off to go to 126 pounds," declared Donaire, who knocked down Mathebula late in the fourth round but failed to pull off the abbreviated victory almost everyone expected of him.

The decision disappointed the predominantly Filipino-American crowd who trooped to Home Depot Center here, even though the judges had the Filipino Flash the clear winner over the South African, who had a four-inch advantage in height and reach.

Lopsided scores

South African judge Deon Dwarte saw it 119-108, California's Steve Morrow had it at 118-109, and Filipino-American Jonathan Davis ruled it 117-110, all in favor of the 29-year-old Filipino champion, who many predict will follow the trail blazed by Manny Pacquiao.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer scored it 119-108 for Donaire, giving just the third round to Mathebula, who stayed clear of Donaire's lunging attacks with nifty jabs.

The Associated Press also favored Donaire, 116-111.

Donaire was so eager to knock out his foe that he abandoned his usual combinations in favor of a "home run punch" that mostly missed its mark and only sapped his energy in the later rounds.

The crowd-pleaser that he is, Donaire admitted he was actually looking for a stunning stoppage at the get-go and was "surprised" that (Mathebula) was tougher than advertised.

"I didn't cut him with a right," Donaire said. "If I did it could have ended earlier."

AP

Nonito Donaire Jr. throws a right against South African Jeffrey Mathebula in the 11th round of their title unification bout at Home Depot Center in Carson City, California. Donaire won by unanimous decision.

Vicious left

Throwing leaping uppercuts and wide punches, Donaire finally connected with a left that sent the 5-foot-10 South African to the canvas seconds before the fourth round ended. But the bell rang before referee Pat Russel could finish the count.

That got the crowd going, but the quick end they expected never materialized.

The fourth-round left hook recalled Donaire's knockout punch against Vic Darchinyan in July 2007, the fight that catapulted him to stardom. Mathebula's feet left the ground when he tumbled into the corner right before the bell.

Frightened gazelle

From the fifth, Mathebula became like a frightened gazelle, while Donaire pressed on with one-shot bombs instead of cutting him down slowly as his trainer Robert Garcia had told him from his corner.

"Hey, we have 12 rounds, don't get too excited," Garcia yelled. "Throw jabs, shift from side to side. I wanna see short punches inside."

Tooth broken

Mathebula, slowly recovering as the fight wore on, battled back with combinations and jabs on the run, inflicting welts on Donaire's lower cheekbone and forehead.

"You know what, he got me off the jab very well, he's a good champion," Donaire said. "I tried to get to the body, but that didn't work. So I tried to pressure him and keep attacking."

"Everything we practiced was carried out," added Donaire, whose other big moment came in the 11th round when he slammed a solid right to the jaw that didn't fell Mathebula but instead broke his tooth.

A doctor later attended to Mathebula, who at first appeared to have sustained a broken jaw.

With Mathebula spitting blood and the crowd of 3,200 at the tennis stadium calling for the coup de grace, Donaire pressed for a knockout with two- and three-punch combinations in the last round. But the gazelle proved elusive to the end.

Megabuck fights

In a blare of techno-rap music, Donaire entered the ring garbed in flamboyant yellow, which matched the color of the dress of his pretty wife Rachel, who turned heads at ringside. A few seats beside her was Black Eyed Peas' Filipino-American member apl.de.ap.

Donaire picked up $750,000 for the fight, which he hoped would serve as launch pad for megabuck fights in the coming months. The bout was carried by HBO through its Boxing After Dark feature, and Donaire is expected to crash the network's pay-per-view realm soon, just like Pacquiao and the other ring superstars.

ABRAMS

From Page 28

The times of the 17-year-old runner in the Oceania championships both eclipsed the 13.40 seconds she recorded in the 100m run in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

In Spain, only the Top 3 placers in each heat and the Top 3 best times in all seven heats will qualify to the next round.

Bahamas' Anthonique Strachan of Heat 7 holds the fastest PB time among the 56 runners competing in the 100m race with her 11.22 seconds, followed by the U.S.' and Heat 5's Dezerea Bryant (11.29 second) and Turkey and Heat 1's Nimet Karakus (11.33 seconds).

Marlies Oelsner of the then East Germany owns the best IAAF World Junior time at 10.88 seconds, which she logged on July 1, 1977 during a competition in Dresden. The IAAF World Junior Championships record in the women's 100m run belongs to Jamaica's Veronica Campbell, who timed in at 11.12 seconds during the tournament in Santiago, Chile, on Oct. 18, 2000.

CNMI

From Page 28

proud of the boys because they competed their hearts out on the field, which is all I can ask; and all of the matches were close among all three teams," said manager Joe Flores over the phone yesterday.

In the game against Guam Monday, the CNMI fired the first salvo in the bottom of the first inning thanks to a couple of errors at third base, which set up an RBI single by Patrick Tenorio that scored Leroy Regis.

Guam knotted it back up in the top of the second inning from a double by George Flores, but the CNMI moved ahead, 4-1, in the bottom frame off two hits.

Guam found two early outs, but the CNMI's Lamarc Iguel hustled out a fumbled ball to second base and Regis kept the inning alive with a base smash to left field.

MacGarette Duenas followed suit with a shot to left that brought in Iguel.

Duenas then stole second base, after which Regis stole home.

Duenas ended up at third base on the play and later stole the dish before Guam could escape the inning.

Guam would regroup, however, and tied the match at 4-all in the top of the fifth inning.

The CNMI immediately reclaimed control, 6-4, in the bottom frame. Duenas drew a walk and stole second base and Brian Camacho escorted him home with a slap to right field. Camacho scored soon after off an error.

The CNMI kept Guam at bay in the top of the sixth inning and then added three more runs to its lead in the bottom portion.

Pinch-hitter Ricardo Dela Cruz ignited a two-out rally with a double. He was driven home by Regis and Duenas stepped in next and doubled him to the plate and made his own way around the path off some more errant throws around the infield.

Guam mustered its final run in the seventh inning off a bean ball with the bases loaded, but in the end, CNMI's Duenas ran down a line drive to centerfield that sealed the deal.

The CNMI's Regis batted 3-for-4 with four runs, while Duenas went 3-for-3 with three runs, two stolen bases, and a base on balls.

Winning pitcher Brian Camacho gave up six hits and a walk with four strikeouts and four hit batsmen through six and a third innings; he exceeded his pitch count in the last inning and Regis filled the void.

Altogether CNMI plunked seven batters as Guam continued its strategy of crowding the plate. The same umpire from their first meeting was making the calls in the rematch and was consistent in not giving many calls on the outside of the plate to either team, so the CNMI had to throw inside.

The bean balls were unintentional and it appeared as though Guam wanted to get hit. Guam's Sean Cruz was plunked three times in the game.

The CNMI's Big and Senior All-Star squads returned from Guam last night.

LAGUNA

From Page 28

LBT Appraisal.

Ebuen got to work early for Laguna, firing 15 of his total markers in the opening canto for their 26-23 lead. VisMinda kept pace with Laguna behind the 11 markers of Bobby Geli.

However, Geli was held to only one field goal in the second period and VisMinda, instead of pushing up the tempo of the game to wear down the five-man crew of Laguna, they slowed things down and paid the price for the gamble. Laguna was able to stretch the lead to 7 at the break, 46-39, as it still outgunned VisMinda in the second canto, 20-16, with the former's five players contributing on offense.

After the needed halftime breather, surprisingly it was Laguna that picked up the pace of the game in the third period with Villegas walking away with fastbreak shots and scoring 12 markers in that quarter alone. He was just 4 points shy of matching VisMinda's total output (16) to give Laguna a double-digit lead after the third, 72-55. Again, Geli struggled in the third canto, making only 4 points and the rest of his teammates failed to step up and capitalize on the shorthanded Laguna team.

Fatigue then finally caught up with Laguna in the fourth quarter and it was forced to slow down the tempo. However, Laguna had nothing to worry about slowing things down, as the win was already in the bag with its lead ballooning to 20-plus points midway in the final canto.

With the victory, Laguna has a chance for a finals berth and will battle Bayani in the second semis match tomorrow at 8pm. Defending champion MDX/Armatech duels Batangas/Fong's Bakery in the first semis tiff at 6:30pm. Batangas got a free ride to the semis after a win via forfeiture over MAFEA/CMI in the first game last Sunday.

Laguna/Twinkle/Erika's 102 – Ebuen 32, Villegas 32, Manipon 13, Lansang 13, Pablo 12.

VisMinda/Civic Boys 70 – Geli 22, Miguel 14, Quemado 8, Santos 8, Faustino 8, Sevilla 4, Olfindo 4.

Scoring by quarters: 26-23, 46-39, 72-56, 102-70.

KFC

From Page 28

KFC/Taco Bell advanced to the next round after withstanding Marianas Water's repeated comeback bids.

Marianas Water threatened KFC/Taco Bell for the last time in the opening minutes of the fourth canto, cutting the latter's lead to 6, 51-57. Marianas Water, which was forced to play catch up as it scored only 7 points in the second quarter and fell behind at the break, 28-21, began the rally late in the third canto after KFC/Taco Bell led by as much as 18, 50-32.

Herbert Maranan started the third period with a triple and went on to score 10 points in that quarter alone to lead KFC/Taco Bell's breakaway. However, Marianas Water worked its way back into the game behind Christian Devero's nine markers, moving within eight at the end of the third, 49-57.

Marianas Water hit the first basket in the fourth to slice the deficit to 6, but it was held to only one free throw for about six minutes, allowing KFC/Taco Bell to regain the double-digit lead for the easy win. KFC/Taco Bell had a scintillating 16-1 run, getting two baskets each from the daredevil drives of Ralph Francisco and Joon Lee and several putback from big man Jeff Durant for a commanding 73-52 lead, entering the final three minutes of the match.

Durant, Francisco, and Maranan went on to top-score for KFC/Taco Bell with 15 points apiece, while Lee and J.R. Deleon Guerrero added 12 and 10, respectively. Mel Capalad had 29 points for Marianas Water, which drew only 2 points from Joseph Galulu.

In the first playoff game, Team Pogi also had a third-quarter breakaway to dominate Banahaw Restaurant.

The match was deadlocked at halftime, 36-all, before Team Pogi outscored Banahaw in the first five minutes of the second half, 14-2, to open a 50-38 advantage. The faster and younger crew of Team Pogi stepped up the pace of the game, escaping with several fastbreak layups, while Jeff Bahillo and Renan Lansang also hit a couple of triples to close the third with a 66-51 lead.

Banahaw tried to mount a comeback in the fourth and cut the deficit to as low as nine, 72-81, but ran out of time, which read at 2:10. Team Pogi brought the lead back to double digits and sealed the win after canning seven free throws in the last two minutes.

Jeff Bahillo finished with 29 points for Team Pogi, while Lansang added 19.

Meanwhile, the Final Four pairing will be determined via draw with the semis matches set for this Friday and the title match this Saturday.

First Game

Team Pogi 95 – Je. Bahillo 29, Lansang 19, Chan 14, Sula 12, Ja. Bahillo 6, Aranda 5, Gallardo 3, Aglipay 2, Raquero 2.

Banahaw Restaurant 79 – Lansang 19, Saplan 17, Tabamo 16, Javier 12, Sevilla 2, Santos 2, Tuwon 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-18, 36-36, 66-51, 95-79.

Second Game

KFC/Taco Bell 88 – Maranan 15, Francisco 15, Durant 15, Lee 12, Deleon Guerrero 10, Omnes 5, Tinio 4, Tumbaga 4, Mendiola 2, Sevilla 2.

Marianas Water 70 – Capalad 29, Devero 15, Casabuena 12, Olivos 5, Vergara 5, Galulu 2, Pacheco 1.

Scoring by quarters: 15-14, 29-21, 57-49, 88-70.

2012 Little League Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

CNMI Senior All-Stars' Cedric Camacho takes warm-up swings before their 2012 Senior League Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament game against Indonesia last Thursday at the Paseo Stadium in Guam.

CNMI Big League All-Stars' MacGarett Duenas holds on for an impressive catch in centerfield in Thursday's opener against the Philippines.

CNMI Senior All-Stars' Frankie Lieto sends home a strike in Thursday's matchup against Indonesia.

CNMI Senior All-Stars' Frankie Lieto avoids a tag at second base in Thursday's game against Indonesia.

CNMI Big League All-Stars second baseman Patrick Tenorio tries to turn a double play in Thursday's duel against the Philippines.

CNMI Senior All-Stars third baseman Henry Rabauliman throws over to first base for a force out in Thursday's game against Indonesia.

CNMI Big League All-Stars' Leroy Regis serves up a pitch in Thursday's match against the Philippines.

CNMI Big League All-Stars' Rocco Reyes fields a ball in right field in Thursday's opener against the Philippines.

CNMI Senior All-Stars' Ray Saralu fields a pick-off attempt at first base in Thursday's match against Indonesia.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Abrams races in Spain today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI sprinter Rachel Abrams competes in the 2012 IAFF World Junior Championships today at the Olympic Stadium Lluís Companys de Montjuïc in Barcelona, Spain.

Abrams is entered in the 100m run and is on Heat 2, joining eight other runners. Her qualifying heat starts at 5:12pm Tuesday Barcelona time (1:12am Wednesday on Saipan). The CNMI runner will be racing against Brazil's Tamiris De Liz, who holds the fastest personal best time in the group at 11.43 seconds. Completing the heat are Saint Kitts and Nevis' Brittany Morton (11.90 seconds), Trinidad and Tobago's Aaliyah Telesford (11.70 seconds), Nigeria's Goodness Thomas (11.90 seconds), San Marino's Alice Capicchioni, Bahamas' Tayla Carter (11.72 seconds), and Jamaica's Shawnette Lewin (11.52 seconds).

Abrams' PB was not posted on the start list, but she recorded 13.01 seconds in the finals of the U20 100m race in the Oceania Regional Championships 2012 held at the Barlow Park in Cairns, Australia last month. She qualified in the finals in the Land Down Under after finishing fourth in her heat with a time of 13.09 seconds and beating runners from Guam, Tonga, Australia, and Papua New Guinea.

See ABRAMS on Page 26

CNMI sprinter Rachel Abrams, seen here in training, races in 2012 IAFF World Junior Championships in Barcelona, Spain, early this morning.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Laguna clinches last semis seat

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Laguna/Twinkle/Erika's was seven minutes away from elimination, but managed to save its season following a 102-70 trouncing of VisMinda/Civic Boys during the lone game played in the 2012 UFO Masters Budweiser Cup last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Laguna was one man short when the opening buzzer sounded, as only Sonny Ebuen, Henry Manipon, Erlan Lansang, and Dindo Pablo arrived for the game. Laguna was then given a 15-minute default time and seven minutes before the extension lapsed Warren Villegas joined the depleted crew.

Villegas went on to sizzle for 32 points, matching the output of Ebuen. The three other Laguna players also finished in double figures in a no-relief job to score past the century mark and march into the semifinals against Bayani/

See LAGUNA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Laguna's Henry Manipon goes up for a layup against VisMinda's Ramil Santos during the fourth quarter of their playoff match in the UFO Masters Budweiser Cup last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CNMI Big Leaguers beat Guam; but PH advances to WS

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

HAGATNA, Guam— Although the CNMI Big League All-Stars forced a three-way tie in the 2012 Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament standings following its 9-5 victory over archrival Guam last Monday in Hagatna's Paseo Stadium, it was the Philippines which advanced to the 2012 Big League World Series because of its superior quotient.

All three competing teams finished with identical 2-2 win-loss records, but the Philippines was declared the champion for maintaining the lowest run allowed average and will represent the Asia-Pacific region in the Little League World Series this August in Bangor, Maine.

The CNMI needed a shutout win on Monday to push through to the big shindig in the U.S. mainland.

Both of the CNMI's losses came by just a run.

"We did our best and played very well in my opinion, regardless of the outcome. I am

See CNMI on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
The CNMI Big League All-Stars give Harry Nakamura, right, props after closing the second inning of Monday's final 2012 Big League Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament game against Guam with a double play at Hagatna's Paseo Stadium.

KFC, Team Pogi ease past playoff foes

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
KFC/Taco Bell's Herbert Maranan pulls up for a one-handed, off-balanced shot against Marianas Water's Christian Devero during the third quarter of their playoff game in the DLX/DL JOS caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Top seed teams KFC/Taco Bell and Team Pogi barged into the semis round of the 2012 DLX/DL JOS Inter-Color Basketball League after ousting separate opponents last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Team Pogi, which led Bracket A in the regular season with a 6-1 record, whipped Bracket B last playoff qualifier Banahaw Restaurant in the first game, 95-89, while Bracket B top-ranked KFC/Taco Bell had a similar double-digit victory over Marianas Water, 88-70.

Both KFC/Taco Bell and Team Pogi are now in the semifinals and will be joined in the Final Four by the winners of the two remaining playoff games tonight. Brabu Gualo Rai takes on Mawati at 6pm for the third semis ticket, while the Fastbreakers battle DLX/Irish Spring for the last Final Four slot at 8pm.

See KFC on Page 26